THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

REGISTERED No. 22.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY.

VOLUME XXV. NUMBER 2.

CALCUTTA—MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 1878.

Per Annum in Advance.
TOWN.....11-8.
MOFUSSIL .....13-4.

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

R BOMBAY. JAN. 17 ...EL

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 7TH JANUARY.

THE LONDON ACADEMY of the 15th ultimo has the following remarks upon Babu Ramdas Sen's revised edition of Aitihasika Rahasaya, Part I. and Hemakandra's Abhidhana Kintamani :

Ram Das Sen the distinguished zemindar of Moorshidabad, has published a new edition of the first volume of his Aitihasika-Rahasya i.e., Historical essays. These essays have been enlarged and carefully revised by the author. The essay on the Bhagavata has been omitted, but the author promises to treat this subject itself more fully elsewhere. We expressed in a former notice of the work that the essays, or a selection from them, might be translated into English. The same wish has been expressed by Prof. Weber and other Sanskrit scholars.

The same scholar, in conjunction with Vedantavagisa Srekantara sarmon, has issued a new edition of Hemakandras Sanskrit Dictionary. Of this work there exist two earlier editions, one published at Calcutta, 1807, under Colebrook's auspices, by Babu Rama ; another by Boshtlingk and Rieu, St. Petersburg, 1847. Ram Das Sen, as he states in his preface, has collected and collated a number of new MSS. . . . . In the preface Ram Das Sen gives some curious extracts from Tungastha and other Jain writers, who state that Hemakandra lived under Kumarapala, 1199, after Vikramarka, and dedicated his dictionary to him. He also wrote another Dictionary, the Anekarthasabda sangraha, containing Homonyms. Wilson considers that this is the same work as Mahesvara's Viswakosha, and that Hemakandra wrote no such work, but this would require more careful consideration. Both this Dictionary and the Siddhasabdanusasana, a Sanskrit Grammar, containing as an appendix his grammar of Prakrit, lately published by Prof. Pischel, were written before the great Dictionary. For fuller information on Hemakandra and Kumarapala, we are referred to Ram Das Sen's Historical essays. The new edition of Hemakandra contain extracts from a comentary, the Khandatippana, and at the end an appendix, the Silonkha i.e., the gleaning of words omitted in the body of the Dictionary."

WE HEAR from Hyderabad that the day fixed for opening the tenders for the Berar Surplus for the season 1878, has been postponed from Tuesday the 15th, to Monday the 21st January, as the last day of the Mohurram falls on the former day.

THE FRIENDS in Paris of M. Gambetta, it is said, are seriously convinced that the great Republican leader's life is in danger from some sudden attack at the hands of extreme and excitable Bonapartists. For this reason we are told that they insist on having him attended, whenever he leaves his home, by a select escort of friends, well prepared for any emergency, who follow M. Gambetta at a little distance, and watch his movements so as to avoid the appearance while giving all the security of a guard. There's the difference between England and France. In England no man is in fear of his life for giving expression to his honest opinion, however violent.

THE APPEARANCE of Louis Kossuth as a contributor to the December number of the *Contemporary Review*, the London *Examiner* justly says will seem to many like a return from the grave, so long is it since the ex-dictator of Hungary has been heard of in politics. Not many persons, perhaps, remember that Kossuth was once actually a journalist in London. He was for some time editor of the *Atlas*, the proprietors of which apparently had some hope that the echo of his even then vanishing popularity might do something to make a journal successful and influential. But his name did not carry that charm. Kossuth is a vigorous English writer.

MR. SLADE, the "Spiritualist," is communing with the spirits in Berlin, where he has been tackled by his more material *confrere*, Professor Herrmann. The Professor has solved the question as to Mr. Slade's use of the fragment of slate pencil, which somewhat puzzled the London prosecution, who thought that he inserted it between the nail and flesh of the forefinger. It appears that he uses a sort of thimble, made of very thin transparent caoutchouc, in which the pencil is fastened. This thimble is attached to one end of a piece of elastic, the other end under his coat, so that when he has written his spirit information, thimble and all snap back out of sight. Raising the table is effected by Mr. Slade's iambical agility, assisted by the manual obedience of his audience. The spectators realy poise the table upon Mr. Slade's toes, keeping it in balance by the uniform pressure they exercise upon it when their hands are closed in circuit around it.

A NEW dye has been introduced into commerce called "Imperial Orange," consisting of inflammable proportions combined with *nopalin*, a red dye, it is sold under the name of *coccin* or cochineal substitute. It is said to be highly dangerous to the dyers, so that the German Government has issued orders to warn the public against buying or selling it. The revengeful lover, the jealous bride, need only make their enemies a present of an "Imperial Orange" dress for them to flare up into spontaneous combustion. Mothers-in-law especially should be on their guard.

IN 1874 the oldest inhabitant of Denmark, Herr Johan Joseph Ronge, the head of a large glass manufactory in Copenhagen, attained his 100th year, and was feted by the whole city, from the king, who decorated him with the Order of the Dannebrog, to the men of his own guild, who honoured him with a torch-procession. This veteran, one of the most thoroughly accredited centenarians on record, has just died at the close of his 103rd year.

TUESDAY, 8TH JANUARY.

ACCORDING to the American journals litigation has commenced in the New York Courts over the colossal fortune of the late Commodore Vanderbilt, amounting to £20,000,000. The will is contested by one of the sons, in consequence of himself and his sisters being cut off with only a million sterling, while another son received the whole of the remainder.

ACCORDING to the *Lancet* Russia has a famine now The province of Kazan is afflicted and the city of Kazan is crowded with hungry immigrants. An imperial Commission has been appointed to visit the place, and to organize relief. A private subscription list has also been started, to which the Tartar merchants are said to be giving freely.

THE CALCUTTA CORRESPONDENT of the *Pioneer* is nothing, if not malicious. In noticing the assemblage at the Chapter of the Star of India in Government House, he says : "There was a large number of native gentlemen, who mingled throughout with the European ladies and gentlemen, no endeavour being made to separate them. In this way what the spectacle lost in uniformity, it gained in variety." But did a single native gentleman misbehave? Even the commingling of natives and Europeans in public gatherings seems to be an eye-sore to writers of this stamp.

THE KING of Portugal telegraphed to the Queen, asking for a commutation of the sentence of death on Joaquim Britto, the murderer of Mr. Roonan at Bombay. Her Majesty replied that the message would be communicated to Bombay, where the case was tried. This probably accounts for the report that the sentence on the murderer has been respited at the intercession of the Governor of Goa.

IT IS STATED that the Hon'ble J. G. Coleman has retired from the firm of Messrs. McDowell & Co., at the age of fifty-two, with a large fortune. The son of Dr. J. G. Coleman, Madras Medical Service, Retired, he has raised himself from small beginnings to a position of something more than mere independence. He has on several occasions rendered gratuitous and excellent public service as President of the Madras Municipality. He is Lieutenant-Colonel in the Madras Volunteer Guards, which Corps he joined on its formation in 1857. Very recently he invested Rs. 10,000 in a fund, the interest accruing from which is to be given to the Friend-in-Need Society. He contributed largely to the building of Emmanuel Church in Black Town. He is a Member of the Committee of the Doveton Protestant College, a Director of the Civil Orphan Asylums, Vice President of John Pereira's School, Secretary and Treasurer of the Monegar Choultry, a Trustee of the Madras Widows' and Orphans' Fund, a Director of the Bank of Madras, and a member of the Madras Legislative Council.

THE INDIAN TEA GAZETTE says that a Calcutta firm (Messrs H. Lewis & Co) have failed owing to their trade in China tea being marred by the ever-increasing sale of Indian tea in India. There are several firms engaged in the China tea trade, who have been carrying on their business at a loss for years past, and whose operations it is feared will also result in failure.

THE IMPROVEMENT in the weather has had a beneficial influence on the health of the city. The deaths in Calcutta during the week ending 29th December, have come down to 369, the number in the *preceding* week was 490. The decrease has occurred in the mortality from fever. In the week ending 22nd December, the number was 252, in the succeeding week it was only 175. The deaths from cholera were 17, and from dysentery and diarhœa 62. There was only one death from small-pox, but 23 from tetanus. Five persons died from old age and 12 infants were still-born.

WEDNESDAY, 9TH JANUARY.

THE CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE has received the following Cabul news :

Rumours have reached us that the Ameer of Cabul has been advised by his physicians to go down to Jellalabad for change of air. His presence there might well be called for on political grounds, but he is, it is stated again, in bad health. Reports of further imposts levied from his subjects are rife and he is said to be extremely unpopular with all classes.

Gold is being sent in, according to reports from Herat, Turkistan and Badakshan. The Ameer is coining *Kaldar* rupees, and rumour has it that when ten millions of these are issued, they will be distributed among volunteers for the *Jehad*, a scheme which, has not, it would seem, been abandoned.

It was said that the Ameer had given out his intention to release his son, Yakub Khan, on the occasion of the Eed—but it was suspected that this was but a blind meant to induce Ayub Khan, the younger brother of Yakub, to place himself in his father's power.

The Governor of Jellalabad has caused a large amount of provisions to be forwarded to Hyder Khan at Dakha for the support of the workpeople at Ali Masjid. It is said that the Khyberees employed do not work with a good will.

The force at Lalpoora have received two months' pay, but the soldiers generally are discontented.

From Guznee, news has been received of very high-handed measures having been adopted to raise money from the citizens. The Governor is said to have caused the gates to be locked, and placing guns in position at the mouth of each of the entrances, ordered that no shop should be opened until its proprietor had paid three rupees to the state. Rs. 80,000 were collected in this way and remitted to the Ameer.

The Turkais of Mukar who had revolted in consequence of the exactions made from them, have been since severely treated by the troops sent against them, and are deserting their homes in large numbers. Six thousand of them are said to have gone towards India with the Povin la traders, intending to take employment as labourers in British territory.

THE Master of the Rolls has adopted the very sensible ruling of the Queen's Bench Division in a recent case, to the effect that a single shareholder in a Joint-Stock Company cannot "meet." Upon an application made the other day to Sir George Jessel, it was contended by the petitioners that an extraordinary resolution, passed at a "meeting" of the Sanitary Carbon Company, was wholly void, as it was passed by only one person, who had the proxies of three other persons in his pocket, and that they (the present petitioners) were entitled as of right to their winding-up order. The Master pronounced the meeting invalid. Joint Stock Companies in India may well take a note of this.

THE ASSAM TEA COMPANY is the best Tea Company in the world. The shares are 10,000, of the nominal value of £30 each, with £20 paid up, the total paid-up capital being £187,160. This amount has sufficed to bring into cultivation an area equal to 5,200 acres. The yield in 1876 exceeded 1¾ million lbs. of tea, the exact figures being 1,779,536 lbs. The dividends have been

In 1874	...	...	..	22½ per cent.
„ 1875	...	...	...	25 „
„ 1876	...	..	...	10 „

Even this lowest (probably due to exceptional circumstances, such as extended cultivation) is very good, and so the £30 shares are quoted at Rs. 800, but we suspect few are in the market.

THE LEGISLATURE of New South Wales has voted a grant for a gigantic bronze statue of Captain Cook.

THE TUDOR Ice Company were hitherto in the habit of chartering ships for the transport of ice to India. They have now resolved to improve on this arrangement, by building a small fleet of vessels, specially adapted to the requirements of their trade.

AN AMERICAN statistician gives the number of miles of railway in the different countries of the world, in 1876, as follows:—United States, 77,470 miles ; Germany, 18,229 ; Great Britain and Ireland 17,263 ; Russia, 13,702 ; France, 12,722 ; Austria and Hungary, 10,956 ; Asia, 8,266 ; Canada, 5,219 ; South America, 5,218 ; Italy, 5,028 ; Spain, 4,112 ; Sweden and Norway, 2,966 ; Australasia, 2,498 ; Belgium, 2,278 ; Turkey in Europe, 1,888 ; Africa, 1,708 ; Switzerland, 1,211 ; Holland, 1,091 ; total, 191,825 *miles.*

INTELLIGENCE from Kashgar, dating early in November, represents the still uninterrupted advance of the Chinese. They had taken Turfan, and in every place they possessed themselves of, were exterminating the whole population without distinction of age or sex, committing at the same time unheard of cruelties. It is believed to be very doubtful whether the present ruler of Kashgar can successfully resist the Chinese invasion.

THE LATEST news in the Siam papers is that the King has resolved that more attention is to be given to the working of the gold mines in his country. At a place called Bang-tapalin, gold of the first quality is available and is used for the manufacture of gold vases and water goblets, and some who are lucky enough to secure gold during some of the most important ceremonies performed by the King, preserve it for the sake of curiosity.

THURSDAY, 10TH JANUARY.

AT THIS DAY'S SITTING of the Viceroy's Legislative Council the Select Committee's report on the Opium Act Amendment Bill was considered and passed. The Honorable Mr. Stokes obtained leave to introduce the Husainabad Endowment Bill explaining the circumstances, which rendered legislation on the subject necessary. Before adjourning the Council His Excellency the Viceroy informed the Council that he had requested Sir John Strachey to explain at the next meeting of the Council the course it was proposed to follow regarding the new taxation Bills. His Excellency also mentioned that as Sir Andrew Clarke is obliged to leave Calcutta for a short period on public business, he will take the same occasion to make a statement on the policy of Government regarding Public Works. The Hon'ble the Lieutenant Governor expressed a hope, for reasons explained that no unnecessary delay would take place in passing into law as speedily as possible the measures of taxation above referred to. He also hoped that Sir John Strachey would take the opportunity of explaining definitely the scheme which the Government of India has under consideration regarding the expenditure of the funds raised for famine relief. The Council was then adjourned till next Wednesday.

THROUGHOUT the Madras Presidency famine batta has been reduced to the lower rate of one rupee per mensem from January 1st. The net decrease last week in numbers on relief works was 32,916 and in those on gratuitous relief was 34,141. Destructive floods have again occurred in Ramnad.

THE SERAMPORE MUNICIPALITY is split up into two parties, the Chairman's party and the Opposition party. A correspondent gives the following reasons in vindication of the steps taken by the Opposition. The Chairman's proceedings are considered to be often arbitrary and not unfrequently taken in direct opposition to the views and wishes of the non-official commissioners. Certain rate-payers had pleaded poverty as an excuse for not being able to meet some municipal demands. The Commissioners proposed that enquiry be made into the truth of the plea through the Commissioners of the wards in which the poor rate-payers were resident, the Chairman overruled them and proposed to appoint the Sub-Deputy Collector to make the enquiry. A public road had been stopped by a past Chairman, the parties aggrieved had appealed to the High Court, the Commissioners were opposed to any defence being made by the Municipality, but the Chairman opposed them. The Chairman in contravention of the existing rules and practice for meetings of the municipality, which were held on Saturdays and in the morning, called a meeting on an unusual day and at an inconvenient hour. Certain sums were sanctioned for expenditure on particular roads in each ward, the Chairman it is said by a stretch of power does not allow even half the money to be spent on them. The Chairman is also accused of withholding from the Municipal Commissioners important municipal matters such as the defalcation of Municipal money, the Commissioner's letter regarding the reduction of the Secretary's salary, Mr. Tremearne's letter explaining the circumstances under which he resigned the Vice-Chairmanship of the Serampore Municipality. Some respectable rate-payers made a representation containing some suggestions in reference to the budget; these representations were never laid before the Commissioners.

THERE will be an Educational Congress of the Anjuman-i-Punjab, which will hold its sittings at Lahore from the 21st January to the 28th February next. Persons engaged in education or members of any learned body are eligible as members, and will be entitled to a copy of the proceedings and of such communications as may be printed on payment of a fee of five rupees. The proceedings will be public, and any visitor whether a member of the congress or not, may take part in the discussion on any subject before the meeting. Members and others who cannot attend may send papers, which will be read.

THERE WERE festive rejoicings and gatherings at Sathkbira on New Year's Day in celebration of the first anniversary of the Imperial Proclamation. A procession with flags and music and accompanied with mace-bearers paraded the town in the morning, the police attending. The gathering consisted of both official and non-official gentlemen. There was then a parade of the constables and musket-firing. In the afternoon there was a horse race and in the evening illumination and fire-wokrs. There was feasting at night.

THE ANNIVERSARY of the Imperial Proclamation was celebrated at Pooree with great *eclat*. A correspondent writes as follows:

A little after dusk the far ascending towers of the Temple of Jagannath were lit up to the fore of the "Sacred" wheel." The fire gradually descended in graceful circles widening its circumference as lower it descended, until the whole of Lion Gate, and the sun pillar, that noble monolith in its front, were all illuminated with a variety of garlands of fire. I would leave it you to picture to yourself the spectacle which the lofty towers of the temple must have presented to the mariners on sea. The illumination of the "Narendra" tank, a splendid reservoir, had a most pleasing effect. The tremulous reflection of the rows of lamps with which its banks and the acquatic temples in its centre were decorated in the blue mirror of its deep waters, presented a fairy scene, which the eye would not fain turn from, the temples themselves looking like columns of fire rising from a watery bed. A beautifully lit-up pavilion, adorned with festoons of flowers and ever-greens was set up in the middle of the extensive road which leads to the Temple, the whole distance between it and the Lion Gate being illuminated with columns of fire of various shapes.

On the arrival of our popular Magistrate Mr. Armstrong with other gentlemen and ladies of the station, he was received by a deputation of native gentlemen and the whole party was seated in a small pavilion of velvet richly inlaid with Cashmere works of gold which was attached to the back of the larger pavilion. A Mohantu of first class respectibility offered him blessings in the name of Her Imperial Majesty. Then an English address was read from which we cannot resist the temptation of making the following extract.

"Pooree is a place of pre-historic sanctity. It has been deemed for ages one of the holiest of Hindoo cities. It was the seat of many a revolution, religious and political. Its towered sanctuaries which proudly point their crests to heaven, some of them the wonders of Indian architecture, are mournful monuments of a civilization which we well may look back upon with pride. But the hand of the all-destroyer, Time, is on them, and assisted with occasional human vandalism of days gone by, it has impaired their majesty and beauty. Much as we venerate the policy of non-interference in religious matters by our rulers, which is perhaps the chief blessing we enjoy under Her Imperial Majesty's rule, we cannot too earnestly pray that the preservation of these noble edifices may be our Ruler's gracious care."

In reply to our address Mr. Armstrong made a short but telling speech the earnestness and enthusiasm of which moved the whole audience, happily concluding it with a cheer. "Maharanee-ki-jai" in which the whole assembly heartily joined.

This was followed by recital of two poems one in Sanskrit and the other in Ooryah. The latter coming from the poem of a Bengali poet whose reputation is not unknown to you, betrayed a tender pathos, which I am sure will find echo in the heart of every native of Orissa. This done, the regular entertainment began with nautches of dancing girls from Cuttuck and the South. There were some native gymnastics also, in which a small brat twisted into a variety of shapes excited the admiration and risible faculties of the whole gathering. Long after midnight the holy city rang with the "sound of revelry" and everything went merrily as a marriage bell. There is one thing to add that the frank and courteous demeanour of Mr. Armstrong shed a kind of lustre over the whole scene and made every one feel quite at home. Wishing you a happy new year and many returns of the same.

FRIDAY, 11TH JANUARY.

OUR DARJEELING Correspondent writes as follows:

"Sometimes ago I saw you announce that Darjeeling has been fixed to be the permanent Head Quarters of the Commissioner of Rajshahi and Cooch Behar Division, but no, this is far from being the case. Perhaps you were misinformed and the announcement should be corrected. Both Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri have been decided to be the head-quarters of the aforesaid officer, where he will stop with his staff for six months respectively. The hill allowance hitherto given to his office establishments will now be consolidated into their salaries, and they will also receive travelling allowances to and from Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri. This arrangement, it is said, entails additional cost upon the State, and can you and your readers imagine the necessity for the same?

Darjeeling owes much of its present importance to its neighbourhood to the head offices of the Northern Bengal State Railway, which are located here almost since their formation. But we now hear that a new Sanitarium for the employers of the said Railway, is to be opened at Dhabijhora near Kurseong, situated a few miles above Adulpur, the would-be terminus station at the foot of these hills, where the aforesaid offices from here and others from the line, will be removed hereafter. The construction of the line from Jalpaiguri to Adulpur is being hurried on, and it is said it will be open for traffic in April next.

Nothing has yet transpired as to the wishes of the Lieutenant Governor anent the appointment of an Assistant Surgeon at Darjeeling, for which the native community had memorialized His Honor here. We hope their prayer will meet with His Honor's favorable consideration. The late Native Doctor, (otherwise called Hospital Assistant) whose popularity was so much questioned, has since been transferred. We hope his successor, who is also a Native Doctor, will prove equal to the work of the station.

Perhaps you have heard of the formation of the "Darjeeling Hindoo Tea Company Limited." It is indeed a hopeful sign of the day, and a movement in the right direction. Three hundred and five acres of land have been purchased in the Terai, which is said to be best suited to the purpose. Seed has arrived from Assam and an experienced native manager has been appointed who has proceeded to open the plantation since a fort-night ago. Here is an opportunity for our Hindoo brothers to invest their money in a most remunerative speculation of the day.

It is rumoured that Mr. Edgar, Deputy Commissioner o Darjeeling, is about to be transferred. It will be a misfortune for Darjeeling to lose such a popular District Officer as Mr. Edgar is, and we heartily wish therefore that the rumour has no foundation. The people of Darjeeling would rather gladly part with Mr. Paul, his Assistant, whose popularity is in inverse ratio to his chiefs."

LETTERS FROM Mozema up to the 1st January reached Jorhat on the 7th. There is nothing fresh to report except unimportant skirmishes with no loss on our side. The surrounding villages, except two, are friendly, camp healthy, but weather very severe; a reinforcement reached Samaguting on the 3rd instant, all well there and at Wolaka.

THE INDU-PRAKASH protests against the transfer of Rao Bahadur Mahadev Govind Ranade, 1st class Subordinate Judge of Poona, to Nassik. Our contemporary says: "It would be too early to hazard anything like an explanation of the grounds on which Sir Richard Temple's Government has thought fit to adopt this system of transfer, though to be consistent it might be expected that Sir Richard will apply the rule to the other officials in the Mofussil as well including the District Magistrates and Judges." It is shrewdly suspected that there is a quasi-political feeling at the bottom of the transfer of Mr. Ranade.

WE ARE glad to learn from the same paper that a widow marriage took place in Bombay last week. Mr. Sadasive Pandoorung Kelkar, a manager in Mr. Morarji's Mill at Sholapur, was married to a young widow. The marriage was performed according to the ritual of the Prarthana Samaj.

A SOMEWHAT interesting exhibition lately took place at Bombay. The above paper says that Shastri Shri Rangacharya of Southern India exhibited at the mansion of Sir Mangaldas Nathoobhai a number of mental feats such as extempore versifications in Sanskrit, arithmetical calculations, playing at cards &c., done at the same time, before a large assembly. After the performance was over Sir Mangaldas presented to him a gold *kunti*, and the Hon'ble Mr. Mandlik two rich shawls. The Shastri then uttered a benediction and the meeting dispersed.

WE ARE glad to learn from the *East* that Babu Mohinimohun Das of Dacca has offered to supply the Mitford Hospital there with blankets annually, and that Nawab Ashanwulla will hold an agricultural exhibition at his own cost.

SATURDAY, 11TH JANUARY.

THE MADRAS MAIL has the following remarks on the new Order of the Crown of India:

We confess we do not readily see the utility of the Order. The natives of India have no desire to drop the *purdhah* that conceals their woman-folk. The majority of the Native Princes are polygamous, and the Government may be caused embarrassment in making invidious distinctions among their wives. Such personages as the Begum of Bhopal and the Princes of Tanjore are marked out as suitable recipients of the Order, but the latter lady, being *ghosha*, would have no opportunity of making a public display of her decoration. In the case of Princesses who are the spouses of Maharajahs or other Princes, the Government will have a delicate task to perform; and when it is performed, it will not, we apprehend, give any extraordinary pleasure to either lord or consort. The distribution of the Order involves an intrusion upon the privacy of native life, which is liable to be misunderstood in the zenana. An Order, that must be, for the most part, distributed in ignorance of the personal merits of the recipients, is calculated to cheapen the emblems of chivalry in public estimation.

There is much truth in the above.

THE SAME PAPER gives the following list of the Female Orders of Knighthood, and the dates of their institution:

Name.	*Country.*	*Instit.*
Amaranta	Sweden	1645
Bee	France	1703
Catherine	Russia	1714
Crown of India	England	1877
Death's Head	Saxe Marberg	1709
Elizabeth	Portugal	1801
Eliz. Theresa	Austria	1750
Isabella	Spain	1804
Louise	Prussia	1814
Maria Louise	Spain	1792
Neighbourly Love	Austria	1708
Slaves of Virtue	Germany	1662
Star of the Cross	Austria	1668
Swan	Prussia	1843
Teste Morte	Wurtemburg	1652

THE PIONEER says that Mr. Whitley Stokes' elaborate Master and Servant Bill is likely to be shelved. We have, however, heard that the Bill will be thoroughly remodelled, and that it will not be made applicable to native employers and native employes. Our contemporary is of opinion that "most people—servant and master both—find the unwritten code in daily use among us sufficient for every-day needs, and laws already exist which define special rights and obligations with reasonable sufficiency." We are glad to observe that thoughtful Englishmen are veering round to the native view of the question.

THE SAME JOURNAL is informed that the Bengal Government has placed before the Government of India a general account of the action taken by Mr.

Digitized with financial assistance from the National Archives of India on 07 August, 2017

Eden in connection with the indigo-planting difficulties in Behar. The Governor-General in Council entirely approves of all that has been done, and asks to be informed hereafter of the nature of the legislative measures, which the local Government may consider necessary for the greater security of the rights of the ryot in Behar.

THE CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE says that "the minds of the natives at Lahore, especially of the Mussalmans, were greatly exercised on Monday evening last at the occultation of Venus by the moon—the star above the crescent appearing to prognosticate something momentous for good or evil to the cause of Islam." We observed the occultation here, but did not notice any excitement in the Mussalman mind. This phenomenon takes place at long intervals.

AS A specimen of the way in which money is wasted on State Railways the *Englishman* gives the following extract from a letter published by a Bombay contemporary:

"Here is a pretty story for you. The earth-work from Ahmedabad to Palanpore was let without advertising at annas 11 per 100 cubic feet. It was sub-let 6 annas, and then again at 4½ annas. As the total amount is 12 lacs, the first contractor gets about 5½ lacs clear profit; the second will get about 1½ lacs. The whole 12 lacs worth of work will therefore be done for actually 5 lacs and the Government will lose 7 lacs! This appears monstrous, but I can vouch for the facts as told me by one who knows, and it was told without hesitation or making any secrets of what is really no secret at all on the spot. The cause of this excess of expenditure lay in not adverting the contract.

Will Sir Andrew Clarke explain this waste of money next Wednesday?

WE HAVE received the prospectus of a Joint-stock Company for a Medical Hall, to be called the Economic Medical Hall and Co., capital Rs. 25,000, with power to raise the same to Rs. 50,000. The shares will be of Rs. 100 each, payable in three instalments.

THE HEARING of the appeal in the Nattore Raja's case before the High Court has been concluded, judgment reserved.

THE POST MASTER of Roy Barielly having recently reported to the Superintendent of Stationery two cases which had come to his notice of the use of Government envelopes for private letters, and having stated his belief that "innumerable instances" of similar malpractices occurred in his district, the Board of Revenue brought this matter prominently before the Government of Bengal in November last. The Government of Bengal consequently moved the Government of India in the Financial Department to impress on all officers entrusted with a supply of stationery for official use, the necessity of taking proper precautions against its misuse by keeping it in the custody of a responsible and trustworthy person. In furtherance of this object, the Finance Department has circulated copies of the letter of the Board of Revenue to all departments and local administrations.

PHILOLOGY run to seed. Captain Pogson of Simla, in a letter to the Agri-Horticultural Society, says "the common Indian name for fever is 'Bookhar,' a compound word, meaning smell or effluvia from sulphate of soda, *i. e.* 'Boo' a bad smell, 'Khar' alkaline or saline matter." A wag at our elbow demurs, and suggests "book" for bookish knowledge, and 'har' a garland.

NEWS from Mozema received at Jorhat on the 11th instant says that Mr. Carnegy was accidentally wounded by one of our own sentries; the wounds are serious. Mr. Williamson left Samaguting on the morning of the 8th for Mozema, where he will take charge of the political duties with the expedition.

AN IMPERIAL EDICT in the Pekin *Gazette* of December 27th announces the capture of Aksu, and Ush.

THE TOTAL NUMBER of deaths in Calcutta during the week ending 5th January was 357, of which deaths from fever were 138, from cholera 22, from diarrhœa and dysentery 40, small-pox 9, tetanus 24. Nineteen children were still-born, and eleven persons died from old age. It will be seen from the above that cholera and small-pox are increasing.

WHAT IS race-antagonism? In Mr. Lynn's account of his Balloon ascent the other day he said how the natives assisted him when he came down He wrote: "As I had been calling very lustily for help, I found natives making rushes. Many times the natives were getting through mud 3 feet deep. I emptied the balloon and packed it into the car. We had to cross two wide channels. The dead weight was got on to the head of 12 natives, who had the pluck to get across the streams and mud up their armpits. And lastly we arrived with the balloon at the Asiatic jute mills at Soorah, and had it not been for the kindness of Mr. J. Preston and Mr. J. S. Miller, I am convinced I should never have reached a place of safety." On reading the above we remarked: "It is noteworthy that Mr. Lynn has no thanks for the natives, who so willingly and at so much inconvenience to themselves came to his help." And this the writer of the Week in last *Saturday Evening's Englishman* calls race-antagonism! Then we mentioned the case of a covenanted native medical officer, who for the last six years has been kept in acting appointments, being driven from pillar to post, which, apart from personal inconvenience, means loss of full pay, while some of his juniors, Europeans, have been provided with pucca appointments. The mention of this fact according to the same writer is race-antagonism! And lastly we pointed out that according to the recent Resolution of the Government of India no office held by a covenanted medical officer should be given to an uncovenanted officer, but the post of Superintendent of the Campbell Medical School, expressly reserved for the Uncovenanted Medical Service, has been given to a covenanted officer. The notice of this inconsistency is called race-antagonism! Thus the "bogie" of race-antagonism is set up against the Native Press whenever it seeks to vindicate native rights. *O! tempora! O! mores!*

WE ARE exceedingly sorry to record the death of Pundit Manphul, C.S.I. He was a remarkable character in the Punjab. He had varied work from the settlement office to political mission to Central Asia. He was also in charge of two important Native States. In recognition of his valuable services to the State he was made a Companion of the Star of India. In him the Punjab loses one of her ablest men. Happily he has left a worthy son in Pundit Suraj Bal, Barrister-at-law.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications and periodicals. 1 Wyman and Co.'s New Indian Directory for 1878. 2, Report on Dispensaries and Vaccination in Rajpootana States for 1876. 3, Report on the Administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for 1876-77. 4, Report on Sanitary Measures in India in 1875-76. Ordered by the House of Commons. 5, The Indian Magazine. Edited by the Rev. J. P. Ashton, M.A. 6, The Calcutta Magazine for January 1878. 7, Trade and Navigation Returns, No. 8 of 1877-78. 8, The Prevention and Counteraction of Indian Famines. By Sir Arthur Cotton. 9, Scott and Co.'s Monthly Stock of Paper and Types. 10, Petition of the Puna Survajanik Sabha on the Civil Service Question. 11, Bombay Petition regarding the Forest Bill. 12, Resolution of the Government of Bengal on the Education Report for 1876 77.

WE ARE requested to notice that at the last meeting of the Kyastha Kulasanrakshini Sabha Sub-Committees were appointed for the revision and publication of the Kulin Kyathyas, reduction of marriage expenses, and miscellaneous subjects connected with social reform.

THE ALBERT TEMPLE OF SCIENCE was opened on Thursday last. The Rev. Dr. Banerjea and Mr. Anandamohun Bose delivered inaugural addresses.

ON MONDAY NEXT HIS EXCELLENCY the Viceroy proposes to visit the Alipore Jail at 4 P.M, the Lunatic Asylum at 4-30, and the Presidency Jail at 5 P.M.

DR. J. JONES HAS been appointed by the Government of India in the Home Department to officiate as Surgeon Superintendent of the General Hospital in the place of Dr. Elliott, deceased.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, 5th January.—Before replying to the Sultans's appeal for mediation, the British Government will endeavour to ascertain the conditions upon which Russia is willing to conclude peace. The *Standard* states that the British Government will neither tolerate the complete overthrow of Turkey, nor a separate treaty of peace to be concluded between the belligerents.

6th.—In a speech made yesterday by Mr. Forster, M P., for Bradford, he spoke against British interyention in the present war. He approved of the policy of Lords Carnarvon and Derby, and said that if the cabinet was divided, he would advise Earl Beaconsfield to appeal to the nation. It is semi-officially stated that Russia will reject an armistice, unless the basis of the peace conditions is previously accepted. The navigation of the Danube is stopped by ice. The Russians have captured Sofia. Mahmoud Damad, paramount adviser to the palace at Constantinople, has been dismissed.

7th.—King Victor Emmanuel is very ill, and is in a state of high fever. The British Ambassador at Constantinople has informed the Grand Vizier that Russia refuses to entertain peace proposals, until the Russian and Turkish commanders have concluded an armistice. Thirty-eight Turkish battalion from the fortresses of the Quadrilateral have gone to Adrianople.

8th.—Reouf Pacha, though still retaining the post of War Minister, has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Turkish army in Roumelia, whilst Suleiman Pacha commands ans army corps, and Baker Pacha a division.

8th.—It is currently reported that it is very improbable that success will attend the negotiations for an armistice. An official Russian despatch states that the Russian troops occupied Sofia without opposition, the Turks having evacuated it. The statement made by a newspaper correspondent that the Turks had abandoned the Schipka Pass proves to be unfounded.

9th.—The Turkish Chamber of Deputies yesterday approved the motion urging a concert between the Government and the Chamber in national defence. The Russians have occupied Slatitza, and are advancing on Bazardchik. The Turks have gained a victory at Kurschumli, which place they have reoccupied, driving the Servians over the frontier after severe fighting lasting two days.

9th.—Following the advice of the British Government the Porte has consented to open up direct negotiations for an armistice with Russia. The Turkish Ministry have settled the conditions which the Sultan has ratified. The Porte has instructed the Turkish Commanders to conclude an armistice.

10th.—Advices from Armenia state, that communication is interrupted between Erzeroum and Tribizonde. The *Times* publishes a letter from Lord Lawrence against British occupation of Quettah in which he opposes the frontier policy of the Indian Government. Prior to the King of Italy's death the Pope sent him his blessing, Prince Humbert, Crown Prince of Italy, has been proclaimed King,

10th.—News has been received of His Majesty the King Victor Emmanuel's death. The Russians have crossed the Balkans near Take.

11th.—Mehemed Pacha has been instructed to represent the Porte in negotiations for an armistice with the Grand Duke Nicholas, who has asked for instructions from Saint Petersburgh. Latest advices from the seat of war in Bulgaria state that the Russians, under General Radetsky, on the 9th instant, captured after desperate fighting, the whole of the Turkish army in the Schipka Pass, consisting of forty-one battalions and ten batteries. The Russians have since occupied the villages of Schipka and Kezanlik.

12th.—The Grand Duke Nicholas has replied to the Turkish Commander-in-Chief that negociations for armistice must be with him, (the Grand Duke,) and that direct armistice is impossible without the basis of peace conditions being agreed to. The fortress of Nisch which had been besieged by a picked crops of 12,000 Russians with a powerful siege train in addition to the Servian force, capitulated yesterday after several days continuous fighting. The Servian troops now occupy the fortress. The strong hold of Antivari in defence of which the Turkish iron-clad squadron has been employed, has made unconditional surrender to Montenegrins under Prince Nicholas. The latest advices concerning the movements of the Russians in Roumelia state that they have arrived before Jenisaghra and Tartar Bazardchik. Anticipating speedy arrival of the Russians before Adrianople the civilian population has evacuated the city. The Turkish Ministry has resigned and a new one has been formed of which the following are the principal members:—Hamdi Pasha, Grand Vizier, Server Pasha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Safvet Pasha, Minister of Justice, Said Effendi, Minister of the Interior, Sadyk Pasha, Minister of the Customs and Kiani Pasha, Minister of Finance. The headquarters of the Russian Army have been transferred to Lovatz.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 1878.

THE LICENSE TAX.

THE new scheme of famine taxation has been accepted by the public as a stern necessity. It was foreshadowed by Sir John Strachey in his budget speech in March last. He then stated that in a despatch to the Government of India, dated the 25th November 1875, the Secretary of State had called attention to the question of the proper incidence of the charges, which have to be incurred for the relief of famine. He said, that "however plain may be the primary obligation of the State to do all that is possible towards preserving the lives of the people, it would be most unwise to overlook the great danger of tacitly accepting, if not the doctrine, at least the practice, of making the General Revenues bear the whole burden of meeting all local difficulties or of relieving all local distress, and of supplying the needful funds by borrowing in a shape that establishes a permanent charge for all future time." Sir John was not then in a position to announce a definite scheme of famine taxation, but he remarked, "meanwhile, the measures which I have been explaining are a step in the direction which I have mentioned; by throwing upon each province the responsibility for meeting the charges necessary for providing the canals and railways required to protect its own people against famine, we give practical recognition to the principle on which the Secretary of State has insisted, and we obtain, to a certain extent, though far from completely, that safeguard for the Imperial Revenues which he thought so necessary. This at least is certain, that the relief of famine must be looked on as an ordinary charge to be met from revenue, and not from borrowed money." The outcome of these measures was the imposition of the Public Works Cess in Bengal, and a license tax in the North Western Provinces. It is now proposed to impose a license tax throughout India, a land tax of one per cent, on the rental in Northern India, and an enhancement of the salt duty in Madras and Bombay by 11 annas per maund. Considering the object for which money is required, there cannot be reasonable objections to the new scheme of taxation, but the public have a right to grumble when it is proposed to make the additional burdens permanent. Sir John Strachey, while generally ex-

pressing himself in favour of economy, held out no hope of speedy reduction of expenditure. He admitted that military charges were susceptible of reduction, but, he said, "judging from the past, we may esteem ourselves fortunate if further additions to the Home Military charges are not thrown upon us." This was not the sort of language we were prepared for from the Finance Minister. It is his duty to fight boldly, perseveringly, and earnestly for the enforcement of economy, wherever practicable. We believe Mr. Chapman, the Financial Secretary, is very earnest in the cause of economy; were it not for him we fear there would have been considerable addition to expenditure, but he steadily sets his face against increase of expenditure, notwithstanding much departmental odium and unpopularity. But he cannot fight the battle single-handed. Sir John Strachey with an almost faint heart added: "We know that we may rely upon the support of the Secretary of State in securing this object, and we may hope that some reconsideration of the burden thrown upon us on account of this branch of charge may be found possible, which shall lead to an arrangement more consistent with our own views of what is equitable to India. Meanwhile, for its immediate need, the Government of India cannot plainly count upon any material saving in our military charges." We admit the existence of immediate need, but if reductions are feasible, and Sir John Strachey does not deny this, why make the new taxes permanent? If an assurance were given to the tax-payers that the taxes will be repealed as soon as the necessary retrenchments are effected, they would appreciate the motive of Government and cheerfully submit to the proposed burdens. As it is, they have a blank prospect before them.

As for the proposed scheme of taxation the license tax forms its leading feature. In the present article we will confine our remarks to the License Tax Bill before the Bengal Council. The license tax, it was agued in the Council, was to all intents and purposes a rough Income tax. This was made clear by section 16 of the Bill, which says, that if in the judgment of the Collector the petitioner is able to shew that the fee which has been charged exceeds two per cent. upon his annual earnings, such excess shall, for the purpose of section fourteen, be deemed a valid objection. And the petitioner would then be graded in the class next below. In other words the license tax shall be an Income tax of 2 per cent. so far as the same may be consistent with the schedule. But as was pointed out in the Council the schedule would necessarily lead to inequality in incidence. This is the weak point of a license tax based on the theory of an Income tax. The same inequality could not be complained of, if it were made merely an excise tax in the form it exists in Calcutta. Here no regard is had to income. It is an assessment according to the nature of the trade, callings and professions. But this mode of assessment would not be productive of revenue, and hence we believe recourse has been had to the theory of the Income tax. That it must be a rough Income tax is apparent from the schedule, for it gives power to the Collector to classify according to his own judgment, without reference to the nature of the trade or industry, subject to the proviso of section 16, which lays down the principle of 2 per cent. assessment upon earnings. We admit that the proviso is a safeguard against violent injustice, but it does not meet the objection taken on the score of equity. The Lieutenant Governor said that the speaker, "who took the objection, was inconsistent, because he had objected to the Bill on the ground that it partook of the nature of an Income tax. Having done that, he proceeded to criticise it practically on the ground that it was not an Income tax, and complained of the very steps which Government had taken to prevent its having any appearance of being an income tax as being the weak points of the measure." Far from it. The speaker distinctly said, "however we might frame a License-tax, it could not but have the appearance and character of a rough Income tax, and if there was to be an Income tax, in some form or other, perhaps it would have been better to frame it in the right form." Then with regard to the proposal that the maximum assessment should be raised from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500, His Honor remarked "originally the Government had intended to fix a rate of Rs. 500, and even at one time thought of fixing the maximum at Rs. 1,000. But they rejected it, because they wish to avoid anything which had the slightest appearance of an assessment upon income, involving any inquiry or analysis of a man's profits, though of course the schedule was a very rough form of assessments upon incomes to the extent to which it went; but it was so graded that men could be assessed by one class or the other of the graduated scale without any sort of inquisition. In addition to this, it was found that this higher scale of assessment of Rs. 500 would produce an infinitessimal amount of revenue compared to the revenue which was expected from the lower grades, and would be open to all the objections to inquisitorial proceedings, which the hon'ble member raised to an income tax." If the License tax in its present form would not lead to an inquisitorial enquiry, the increase of the maximum to Rs. 500 would not be attended with that result. In either case the assessment would be arbitrary, and an examination of accounts is permitted when the objector may tender them or the Collector may consider it necessary to call for them for the purpose of ascertaining the truth of the objector's allegations. So an enquiry into the accounts cannot be absolutely avoided, and if it is not objectionable to examine the accounts with the maximum of Rs. 200, why should it be objectionable, if the maximum were raised to Rs. 500? As for the argument that the increase of the maximum would not bring in much additional revenue, we submit that it would have at least the merit of securing comparative justice. Could anything be more unjust than this—that the merchant making half a lac or one lac per annum should be let off with ½ or ¼ per cent., while the poor *moodi* or vegetable-seller or artizan, who earns Rs. 4 per month, and can hardly make the two ends meet, should be saddled with a two per cent. tax. This utter want of morality in the tax is greatly to be regretted. Then with regard to the *ticcadari* system to be followed in the collection of the tax. His Honor said, "what they proposed to do with municipalities was very much the same as what the Government of India proposed to do with the several Provincial Governments. They proposed to fix a certain amount which a municipality should have to pay, that sum being very much within what it could collect, and to give it the whole benefit of any sum which it might collect in excess of the minimum sum on which the contract would be based. The sum to be fixed would be a matter of detail, and it would be fixed in concurrence with the municipality itself. So far from having any desire to be hard upon municipalities, they would leave them some little margin of profit for performing those duties on behalf of the Government." We are afraid that this system of contract will lead to much abuse and oppression. As matters go, the municipalities are not very tender-hearted in dealing with the rate-payers, and when they will see that they must make good a certain amount to Government, and that they must repay themselves from the margin which might be left to them, they would naturally be anxious to put the screw tight. The Government will screw them and the Municipality will screw the tax-payers, who as a matter of course will suffer in the end. Why should not the municipalities be simply charged with the cost of collection? Surely it is not intended to give the Municipalities a share in the tax, but the practical effect of the proposed arrangement will be that the Municipalities will be co-sharers with the Government, and the poor rate-payers will be in the position of the conch-shell in the saw. Then the Bill does not include the professions except in Calcutta. We cannot understand the reason of this exclusion. If the poor trader or artizan, who makes Rs. 4 a month should be taxed, why should not the pleader, law-agent, doctor, engineer, builder, or other professional persons in the Mofussil be equally taxed? These are a prosperous body, and they do not make any direct contribution to the State exchequer. The Lieutenant Governor said that they would be reached by the Stamp Bill, but we do not see that they will be liable to an annual tax under that Bill. As for the application of the revenue to be derived from this Bill, the Lieutenant Governor said that "although he was not aware that the plan had been entirely completed, that in ordinary years and in ordinary times the money thus collected from the various provinces should be spent in reproductive works for the benefit of those provinces." Then why not insert such a provision in the Bill? His Honor was asked in Council "whether it would be competent for the Select Committee, to whom the Bill might be referred, to introduce a provision to the effect that in ordinary years the proceeds of the tax should, after providing for a proportional share of the interest upon the loans which had been raised on account of famine expenditure, be appropriated to the construction and maintenance of provincial works of a reproductive character, and that in exceptional years and times of emergency the proceeds of the tax might be applied in such manner as to the Governor-General in Council might seem fit. The insertion of such a provision in the Bill would afford the tax-payers some assurance that the money paid by them would as far as possible be expended for their own benefit." But His Honor replied that "it was not in his province to modify the orders of the Government of India. But His Honor might ask the Government of India to distinctly lay down the principle, on which he has apparently accepted the responsibility of raising the additional tax." We hope this point will be cleared up before the Bill is passed into law. Further, it had been pointed out in the Council that Bengal had been within the last seven years burdened with an additional taxation of about a million per annum and all that for the relief of the imperial exchequer. If the Government of India was consistent in its policy of provincial finance, it should allow the provincial Government to spend the money for the benefit of the tax-payers, after paying of course its quota of the interest charge upon the famine loan. The famine expenditure of 1877 amounted to 9¼ millions, and the interest upon that sum would not exceed 40 lacks of rupees. In reply the Lieutenant Governor said that "in speaking of the actual amount mentioned by Sir John Sttachey on account of famine expenditure as 9¼ millions, and calculating the interest upon it at 40 lacks, the hon'ble member said that the share of Bengal would be but a small proportion of that sum. But his hon'ble friend did not go back far enough. What Sir John Strachey said was that although the late famine in Bombay and Madras cost 9¼ millions, there would be a further item of 7 millions, which had been expended for the relief of the famine in Bengal. Now this should also be taken into account, and as it happenned the amount which Bengal was now asked to contribute, and which had been limited to 30 lakhs in the manner which was now proposed, was nearly the interest of the 7 millions which had been expended from the Imperial Revenues upon Bengal alone." Now, there are two points involved in this statement. Sir John Strachey has included in this sum of 16 millions the famine charges of 1867 and 1874, but if it was right to bring up these arrears, he might have as well included the famine charges of 1770, 1837, 1861, 1869, and the like. The cost of the famines of 1866 and 1874 had been already met, and why should it be again smuggled into the accounts? The Orissa famine of 1866 was followed by Lord Mayo's License tax of 1867, and the cost of the Behar Famine of 1874 according to Sir William Muir and Lord Northbrook was partly met from the surpluses of 1873-74 and 1874-75, which amounted to more than 4 millions, and partly from the capital borrowed for reproductive works then undertaken. Besides, it was followed in 1877 by the Public Works Cess. Are we still liable to pay for the cost of these famines? We wish that Mr. Eden had pointed out these bare facts to Sir John Strachey. Then assuming that we are liable to pay our quota of interest for 16 millions, is it right or just that we in Bengal should provide nearly two-thirds of the money? The License tax according to Mr. Mackenzie's calculations will yield about 40 lacs per annum, while the interest upon 16 millions would require 64 lacs, which ought to be distributed over the whole empire. Why should Bengal be required to pay even 30 lacks of this sum, or nearly half of the total? Now as before Bengal must be the milch-cow. Mr. Eden promised last year that she will be allowed henceforward to use her own milk, and here we

have an earnest of the happy era. The truth is the Decentralization Resolution is a delusion and a snare—it is a device to increase taxation in the name of provincial revenue and at the same time to thow dust into the eyes of the English public.

THE BENGAL POLICE.

SINCE the celebrated Police Minute of Sir Frederic Halliday we have not had the good fortune of coming across any document of the Bengal Government, which tells the truth about the Police so frankly and uncompromisingly as the Resolution of Mr. Eden on the last Police Administration Report does. The Resolution shews a remarkable freedom from departmental bias, a keen appreciation of the proper functions of the Police, and a wholesome regard for the liberty of the subject, which augur well for the future. In noticing the Municipal Police the Lieutenant Governor remarks that "no force can possibly be efficient if it be renewed every two or three years, and that there must be something radically wrong in the organization of a body of which the members desert or resign in this wholesale manner." With regard to the Rural Police His Honor observes, "only 182 village policemen were rewarded during the year, while the number punished was very much greater. In the Burdwan district alone as many as 950 were punished for various derilictions of duty. This is very unsatisfactory, and appears to point to the infliction of either capricious or petty and insufficient punishments." As regards the conduct of the regular Police during the year, the Resolution runs as follows: "It shows no improvement on the previous year. Of officers, 1·5 per cent., and of men 1·7 per cent., were punished for offences under the Penal Code; convictions under the Police Act were 1 and 1·5 per cent., and departmental punishments were 32·1 and 16·2 per cent., respectively." The Lieutenant-Governor considers these figures, especially those relating to officers, to be unsatisfactory. The aggregate number of cognizable cases reported during the year was 117,559, against 120,838 in 1875; 126,122 in 1874; 110,627 in 1873, and 104,121 in 1872. If false cases are deducted, the total numbers are 85,205 for 1872; 90,882 for 1873; 99,121 for 1874; 94,783 for 1875, and 95,747 for 1876. It is thus seen that the actual amount of crime committed during the past year shows a small increase on 1875 and a very considerable increase on 1872 and 1873. As for false cases, His Honor remarks "that there is too much reason to fear that in many districts the habit exists of returning hopeless or troublesome cases as false. This is a mode of proceeding on the part of the police which a really active, efficient Magistrate would at once check. It is said that in some districts an arbitrary money standard of investigation is fixed, the police availing themselves of the discretion allowed them in all cases in which the value of the property stolen is less than Rs. 5. Such a practice is most irregular, and Mr. Eden finds it difficult to believe that any Magistrate could sanction it. The police are provided for the protection of the poor as well as of the rich, but such an order as this practically involves the exclusion of the most helpless class from some of the benefits of good government. The punishment of offenders and the prevention of further crime is even more important than the restoration of stolen property to its rightful owners. The petty thief may cause in the aggregate a greater amount of suffering than even the professional dacoit, and nothing more surely leads to an increase in the numbers and confidence of this class than the systematic neglect by the police of petty depredations." This is quite true, and we are glad to note that Mr. Eden is determined to deal with the evil in the right spirit. The large number of acquittals Mr. Eden thinks is due to the "ignorance and dishonesty of the Police" and "witnesses." He then goes on: "District Magistrates should endeavour to establish more cordial relations between the higher officers of police and the native Magistrates. At present intercourse between officers of this class is too purely official and formal, and no doubt many misunderstandings would be avoided by a freer interchange of views and opinions." There is much truth in this, but we are disposed to think that a healthy friction is necessary between the Police and the Judiciary in the interests of justice, and that this object cannot be attained unless the two functions are separated. The present system of subordinating the District Superintendent of Police to the District Magistrate is detrimental to the interests of justice. The Lieutenant Governor shews conclusively that the large number of acquittals is not due to the alleged prejudice on the part of jurors, for His Honor remarks, "the proportion of acquittals in Maldah and Bhagulpore was higher than in any non-jury district, and this cannot be owing to any prejudices against the police on the part of either of the Judges, as the same Judges, sitting in Dinagepore and the Sonthal Perguunahs, convicted, the former in a considerable, and the latter in a very large number of cases." There has been a decrease in dacoity, but that decrease has been brought about in a rather strange manner. In most districts the Police have found it more convenient to have bad characters locked up in jail and supported at the cost of the State on suspicion of bad livelihood. A large reduction in the number of dacoities was under the circumstances naturally to be expected. His Honor continues, further on:

"In other words, having, by locking up for various terms or requiring security from 7,765 persons in three years, succeeded in reducing the number of offences against property from 64,808 in 1873 to 61,112 in 1876, we are to go on until we have locked up the offenders in the great majority of the latter. This is a sufficiently appaling prospect, and apart altogether from the question of accommodation for the vast multitude of suspects whom it proposes to imprison, the Lieutenant-Governor is quite unable to understand how any one with the results of the last year's police action before him could support such a scheme. It is not clear how it happens that, while the police by mere force of supervision have been able to deter large numbers of criminals from associating in gangs of five, and thus committing dacoity, their success stops abruptly at this point and they are powerless either to prevent criminals from committing burglaries alone, or in twos or threes, or to lay their hands on those over whom they are said to keep so strict a watch. The evil is probably greater, and the result more demoralizing to the lower classes, than the continuance of dacoity. Mr. Eden does not in the least doubt that the efforts of the police in watching the movements of bad characters were productive of much good during the year, and that they prevented the commission of much organized crime. But he believes that such efforts properly guided would have sufficed for the whole object which has been attained, without the aid of wholesale locking up of suspects; and further, that legitimate supervision of bad characters and the utilization of the knowledge thus acquired of their habits and movements should, and must, suffice for the prevention and detection of petty as of serious offences against property. The extent of the injustice and oppression which has been occasioned by prosecutions for bad livelihood is apparent on the face of the returns. Of 4,861 persons who were actually tried for bad livelihood during the past year, no less than 1,243, or more than 25 per cent, were acquitted.

Mr. Eden fears that very many of the persons convicted were really innocent, and an examination of some cases which have come before him quite confirms him in the belief that a vast amount of bitter wrong and oppression has been wrought upon the people. Apart, moreover, from the grievous injustice done to the innocent, this wholesale system of prosecutions must defeat its own object in the future. Nothing more certainly leads to the formation of organized bodies of marauders than the congregation of bad characters for comparatively short periods. The really guilty are thrown together and have ample time for maturing future schemes, while those who have been wrongly convicted, knowing the stigma which will always attach to them, and surrounded by evil influence in jail, will in the majority of cases, return to society hardened criminals. Any man once in jail is, without much analysis of the nature of the crime for which he was confined, entered in the police records and known in his village as a "dagi" or marked man. He is for the rest of his life subject to the persecution of unscrupulous police subordinates and to denunciation by any of his neighbours with whom he happens to quarrel. Nothing could express more clearly the Lieutenant-Governor's view of the manner in which these investigations are conducted than the following description in the Inspector-General's own words: "The consequence is that, in the majority of cases of bad character sent up, the police do not send up the names of the respectable inhabitants, but summon the chowkeedar and two or three cultivators to testify against the accused," and yet the Inspector-General considers it a matter for congratulation that during the year 1876 no less than 5,154 persons were sent up for trial under such circumstances, that 3,618 of them were thrown into jail, and 1,243 persons were dragged away from their houses and after judicial inquiry declared not to be the bad characters they were charged to be by the police. Mr. Eden finds in the bare figures of the present report abundant proof that a lamentable amount of suffering and wrong has been caused; and, looking to the vast number of false cases of different kinds instituted all over Bengal, he is determined that this fearful engine of oppression shall not be left uncontrolled in the hands of the police, but shall only be used under most effectual safeguards."

And all honor to Mr. Eden for this wise resolve. No journalist could have written more strongly against this illegal and oppressive practice of the Police than the responsible ruler of the Province, from a careful and thorough investigation, has written in this Resolution. We hope the incisive remarks of the Lieutenant Governor will have the desired effect. Some Magistrates made the bad livelihood sections of the Criminal Procedure Code a cloak for systematic oppression. Could the Lieutenant Governor know the real facts of some cases, he would be literally stunned! Has he seen the papers in Kukur Sing's case of Dinagepore? This man we are told is well to-do, and has no difficulty in earning his livelihood, and yet he was thrown into jail by Mr. Westmacott under colour of bad character. Mr. Eden makes just remarks on the desirableness of amicably settling petty criminal cases, which arise from personal disputes or village squabbles. He says: "There is reason to fear that, in criminal as in civil matters, an unhealthy spirit of litigiousness is springing up amongst the people. Every effort should be made to discourage to the utmost all frivolous and vexatious complaints." An excellent example was set in this respect by Mr. Porter whilst Joint-Magistrate at Baraset. His amicable spirit thinned the criminal files of his court in no time. Then the Police do not often know their duties. The Lieutenant Governor remarks that "it is by no means the law or the spirit of the law that functions really judicial should be exercised by the police, and that trials before Magistrates should be of the nature of small sessions trials." Again, some of the Magistrates and District Superintendents have a strange misconception of their own functions and the duties of the Police. The Lieutenant Governor says:

"The Magistrate of Dinagepore so far misapprehends the relative importance of the general efficiency of the police and his own convenience that he has given prominence to a complaint that they do not make sufficiently satisfactory arrangements for his comfort "when travelling." There is much in the facts disclosed in Mr. Monro's report to show that in more serious respects the condition of the Dinagepore police is unsatisfactory, but this does not appear to have attracted the Magistrate's notice. The misconduct of the Chittagong police was chiefly exhibited at the time of the cyclone. To see that his subordinates do not abuse their power by oppressing the people is the first duty of a District Superintendent, and this can only be effected by repeated inspections and by constantly moving about among the people. Some District Superintendents are reported to have neglected their inspection duties to a great extent; many others seem to prefer inspecting police-stations situated on good roads and within easy reach of head-quarters. But such inspections are of little value, and the Inspector-General is requested to analyse carefully the diaries of District Superintendents, and to discriminate between those who obtain a false reputation for activity by driving out to police stations easily approached and spending a few hours there, and those who conscientiously and thoroughly inspect frequently all their stations. What is really required is that the police of the outlying stations, who have the most scope for acting as they please may be constantly kept in check. The Inspector-General should insist on every District Superintendent spending one or two days at every such thana at least once a quarter. There is no part of a District Superintendent's duty so important as frequent and full inspection of his police-stations and outposts. Nothing else will enable him to gauge the capacity of the various officers, to stimulate the honest to careful and zealous work

and to keep the unscrupulous from preying on the people, and to distribute his officers and men with reference to the special wants of the various localities, A District Superintendent who only sits in his office, at head-quarters, passing formal written orders, and who is known only by name to the majority of the men under him, might as well not be in the district. To render the police efficient as well as innocuous is, the Lieutenant Governor believes, within the power of every intelligent and industrious District Superintendent. Mr. Monro remarks with much justice that what the subordinate officers of police require is not so much detective ability as direction of their detective efforts. A District Superintendent has no more important duty while he is at head-quarters than the direction of police enquires after careful and prompt examination of the diaries of investigating officers. If he really knows his district, he will often be able to offer suggestions which may change the entire course of the investigation and ensure success. Even where this is not the case, the knowledge that his proceedings are being narrowly and critically watched will keep the investigating officer from indolence and fraud. Instances have repeatedly come to the notice of Government in which cases have failed through sheer force of dishonesty, where genuine evidence has been twisted and distorted, and the progress of the enquiry misrepresented, until the whole case for the prosecution has been discredited and lamentable failures of justice have ensued. Numberless instances in which the subordinate police overreach themselves would probably never occur if the investigating officer knew that the prompt submission of his diary would be insisted upon, and that it would be carefully scrutinized by his superior. Efficiency and honesty cannot be expected if ignorant officers are left to their own clumsy devices, and the dishonest are encouraged to believe that the record of their tamperings with facts will remain buried and unknown in a vernacular report. For a District Superintendent to admit that his police are "wanting in detective ability," while those of a neighbouring district have distinguished themselves, is to confess his own incapacity. The police of adjoining districts in the same province are composed of practically the same material. The difference in the results attained by different officers is simply due to the difference in their ability, their industry, and their knowledge of men."

We have not space for more extracts. The Resolution of the Lieutenant Governor is a most important State paper. It conceals nothing, extenuates nothing, shirks nothing. It is free and above-board, and its effect cannot but be salutary. When the Head of the Government fairly indicates that his eyes are upon his men, and makes them feel that he understands his work, and that he wont allow himself to be humbugged or bamboozled, we may rest assured that a wholesome spirit of activity, vigilance, and faithful discharge of duties will be infused among his subordinates. We hope His Honor will have the opportunity of recording better results of Police Administration in Bengal next year.

THE ARMS BILL.

The Arms Act is an outcome of the Sepoy Mutiny. During the progress of the Mutiny, whole populations were disarmed in disturbed districts, and then the whole nation has been placed under restraint in the use of arms under the operation of the Arms Act. No person can carry arms without a license. But under the existing law there is some freedom about the possession of arms; the prohibition applies only to certain provinces, which, to use the language of Act XXXI of 1860, have been "disarmed." Throughout the rest of the country, though no person can go armed or carry arms except under a special exemption or by virtue of a license, the mere possession of arms other than cannon is not restricted. The Government has however now decided that no person shall henceforward be permitted to keep arms without a license. It is alleged in the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill that there is good reason to believe that this complete absence of restriction in the districts, which have not been disarmed, has led to the law prohibiting the transport of arms and the export of arms across the frontiers being extensively evaded. It is remarked that as long as all persons indiscriminately may have arms in their possession to any amount they please in the districts which have not been disarmed, it is practically impossible to prevent such arms being passed on to the disarmed districts, to the predatory classes in Native States, and to the hostile tribes on our frontiers. On this supposition the country is to be put under a sort of Reign of Terror. The provisions of the Arms Bill sufficiently indicate what we mean. The Bill may be divided into two parts, the importation and transport of arms and the possession of arms. We will consider the last first. Section 10 of the Bill provides:

No person shall go armed with any arms except under a license and to the extent and in the manner permitted by such license.

Any person so going armed without a license or in contravention of its provisions may be disarmed by any Magistrate or police-officer.

Section 11 enjoins that

No person shall have in his possession or under his control any arms, ammunition or military stores except under a license and in the manner and to the extent permitted by such license.

Section 12 runs as follows:

The Governor General in Council may from time to time, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, make rules to determine the officers by whom, the form in which, and the terms and conditions on and subject to which, any license shall be granted; and may by such rules among other matters—

(*a*) fix a fee payable by stamp or otherwise in respect of such license;

(*b*) fix the period for which such license shall continue in force;

(*c*) direct that the holder of such license shall give notice to an officer of Government of anything done thereunder, to keep a record or account of anything so done and exhibit such record or account when called upon by an officer of Government to do so;

(*d*) empower any officer of Government to enter and inspect the business premises of any person holding a license of the description referred to in section 5 or 6;

(*e*) direct that any such person shall exhibit the entire stock of arms, ammunition and military stores in his possession or under his control to any such officer of Government, and

(*f*) require the person holding any license or acting under any license to produce the same when called upon by an officer of Government to do so.

Then follow the penalty clauses, which we need not reproduce. Section 21 provides:

Whenever a Magistrate has reason to believe that any person residing within the local limits of his jurisdiction has in his possession any arms, ammunition or military stores for any unlawful purpose,

or that such person cannot be left in the possession of any such arms, ammunition or military stores without danger to the public peace,

such Magistrate, having first recorded the grounds of his belief, may cause a search to be made of the house or premises occupied by such person, or in which such Magistrate has reason to believe such arms, ammunition or military stores are or is to be found, and may seize and detain the same, whether covered by a license or not, in safe custody for such time as he thinks necessary.

The search in such case shall be conducted by, or in the presence of, the Magistrate, or by or in the presence of some European officer, civil or military, to be especially empowered by the Local Government.

The Local Government may at any time seize any arms, ammunition or military stores in the possession of any person, notwithstanding that such person is licensed to possess the same, and may detain the same for such time as it thinks necessary for the public safety.

The above sections shew how stringent the law will be. Coupled with these provisions is the provision in the Stamp Bill that a license under the Arms Act shall be Rs. 10. The disarmament of the people will be thus complete. If the interests of the emqire did require such wholesale disarmament, we would be the last persons to offer objections. The safety of the empire must override all personal considerations. It would be simply madness to ask the Government to arm its enemies. But has any necessity been made out for this sweeping measure? In the remarks which Sir Edward Bayley made in introducing the Bill he chiefly dwelt upon the trade in arms, but he did not shew that the possession of arms by the people of well-affected districts led to abuse. His principal point was the increase of importation of cheap arms. He said, "there was good reason to believe that, under the existing law, the import-trade in cheap arms and ammunition had grown up to an unwholesome extent, and that far larger quantities were exported than were required merely for legitimate purpose. It was known to the Government of India that cheap arms were in fact bought and sold to an extent quite incompatible with the maintenance of peace and good government." But such arms, Sir Edward Bayley says in the statement of objects and reasons, "cannot, from their inferior make, be intended for sporting purposes," and if they are not good for sporting, surely they cannot be good for warlike purposes. It is not, therefore, clear how the transfer of these arms to frontier tribes can be detrimental to the interests of peace and good government. How many cases have been there in which such arms have been employed for purposes of political disturbances. On the other hand consider the serious mischief, which such a rigorous Arms Act will cause to the people. Apart from the inquisitorial enquiry which it will entail, it will render the people utterly helpless for self-defence against the attacks of wild animals as well as of wild tribes. The deaths from the outrages of wild animals are increasing. A recent number of the *Gazette of India* gave the number of persons and cattle killed by wild animals. We give the following abstract:

NUMBER OF PERSONS KILLED BY

	Elephants.	Tigers.	Leopards.	Bears.	Wolves.	Hyenas.	Other animals.
Madras	5	83	33	6	...	...	31
Bombay	1	21	7	3	9	...	47
Bengal	9	439	67	52	185	27	662
N. W. P. and Oudh	10	20	12	17	673	18	249
Punjab	...	...	1	1	4	...	20
Central Provinces	2	153	6	15	14	1	63
British Burma	6	15	5	2	...	...	9
Assam	19	177	7	23	...	...	47
Hyderabad...	...	8	4	...	2	3	11
Ajmere and Mhairwarra ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	4
TOTAL ...	52	917	156	123	887	49	1,143

NUMBER OF CATTLE KILLED BY

	Elephants.	Tigers.	Leopards.	Bears.	Wolves.	Hyenas.	Other animals.
Madras	1	3,231	2,235	32	3,681	445	376
Bombay	..	1,368	477	11	947	45	323
Bengal	...	2,516	1,694	28	900	773	1,421
N. W. P. and Oudh ...	1	1,119	5,871	225	1,814	627	1,930
Punjab	...	...	2,760	87	3,463	3	74
Central Provinces	2,166	1,338	13	271	54	350
British Burma ...	1	619	79	1	...	...	33
Assam	1,940	428	...	150	...	16
Hyderabad	141	258	13	1,402	92	55
Ajmere and Mhairwarra	16	230	...	220	..	1
TOTAL ...	3	13,116	15,373	410	12,448	2,039	4,573

About two years ago considerable agitation was made in Parliament on this subject, and the Secretary of State assured the House of Lords that the Government of India was fully alive to its duty of protecting the people from the attacks of wild animals. And the practical answer which the Government now gives to the anxious enquiries of Parliament is that it makes the possession of arms a criminal offence for the whole population. The people, already helpless, will be thus made utterly helpless in protecting themselves against the attacks of wild animals. It is for this reason chiefly that we object to the wholesale disarmament of the people. By all means restrict the possession and use of arms in turbulent and suspected districts, but to extend the law wholesale is in our humble opinion to overshoot the mark. It is true that the local Government will have the discretion in exempting any person or class or tract from the operation of the Act, but it is apparent from Sir Edward Bayley's remarks that the object is not to exercise this power largely.

With regard to the importation and sale of arms the law may be made stringent if the Government considers it advisable, but the enhancement of the fee would practically render the purchase of what are called "cheap arms" almost prohibitory. On this point we have much pleasure in making the following extract from an excellent article of the *Indian Daily News* on the subject:

"In assuming that the cheaper classes of weapons are intended to be used for evil purposes, the Government once more illustrates the ease with which councillors accustomed to deal with millions stumble hopelessly amongst the considerations which influence the lives of poorer persons. Leaving out all the appurtenances of an ordinary gun-case, which can possibly be dispensed with, such as a capping machine, a spring cramp, an oil bottle, and so forth, and making a list only of absolute necessaries, we find, after a study of the contemplated tariff in the schedule, that the mere duty on an ordinary fowling-piece would amount to the following :—

The Gun itself	50	0	0
Turnscrew	1	8	0
Nipple Key	1	8	0
Cleansing Rod	1	8	0
Brush	1	8	0
Powder Flask	1	8	0
Shot Belt	1	8	0
Wad punch	0	4	0
Bullet Mould	0	4	0
Extractor	1	8	0
	61	0	0

Considering that an ordinary fowling-piece costs little more than Rs. 90, and that some fowling pieces might be had for less, it is easy to see that this arbitrary exaction of a nearly cent per cent. duty on cheap guns is indefensible.

We know we tread upon a delicate ground when we enter our protest against the policy of the Arms Bill. But we feel no hesitation in doing so, because we yield to none in our loyal support of the British Government. It does seem strange and inconsistent that while the Government frankly acknowledges the loyalty of the people, and is actively devising means by the institution of new Orders of honor and other measures to secure their attachment to the Crown, it deliberately proposes a law, which will render their homes insecure and their persons a prey to the attacks of wild animals.

KOSSUTH ON TURKEY AND RUSSIA.

LOUIS KOSSUTH has contributed to the *Contemporary Review* a remarkable paper on "Russian Aggression, as specially affecting Austria-Hungary and Turkey." We have not space to notice this article at length, but we will give the salient points. The Hungarian patriot apprehends the true character of an attack upon the integrity of the Turkish empire. In this he almost echoes the voice of Lord Beaconsfield. He says: "Every aggression either on the integrity of the Turkish empire, or on her sovereignty, will always threaten the peace of Europe, because every direct or indirect increase of Russian preponderance in Europe will be a step to the fulfilment of that prophecy of Napolean, that "*Europe will become Cossack.*"... He thus describes the situation in Europe: "England is powerful. She can defend Constantinople and sweep the Russian flag from the seas. But she is not a continental power. She *alone* cannot send an army of some hundred thousand men to Roumania. France is still maimed; she begins to recover, but she suffers from her past losses. If she were not maimed, Russia would not dare what she dares now. The German Imperial Government has polite words for every one, but it is its policy not to allow an alliance of any European power with Turkey against Russia, in order to localize the war. If this succeeds it will be of the greatest service to Russia, as she will thus have an opportunity of preparing for the occupation of additional territory by raising internal convulsions in the Turkish provinces. And she will do it at the given time as well in Hungary as in Austria. And what is the key to this policy of Prince Bismarck? Nothing else but that he is afraid to offend Russia, as she might think of giving to France an aiding hand to procure revenge." Regarding the theory of Panslavism he remarks:

"And what is this Panslavism? This is no merely national matter, no affair of national freedom. It absorbs the different Slavonic nations into one single race It substitutes race for nationality; power of race for liberty.

The signification of "The Slavonic Cause" as a Russian war-cry is this: that the Cabinet of St. Petersburg seeks, wherever there are Slavonians, instruments wherewith to paralyze the policy of some other power, to cripple its force, and to find in the Panslavists wedges with which it may split State as under, if they stand in the way of Russia's extension of power; and to create new combinations, either as her tools or her objects, for the sake of her aggrandisement.

At present it is the Turkish empire that is the anvil upon which Russia strikes with her Panslavistic hammer. Her first object is the country which forms an angle betwixt the vital artery of our fatherland and Austria—the Danube, and her estuary on the coast of the Euxine.

That after the Turks we and Austria would next be struck upon, is quite clear. Not to see this is blindness. To see and not to prevent it, is suicide.

This is no mere question of sympathy or antipathy. It is a matter of vital importance for Hungary, that the integrity and sovereignty of the Turkish empire should be secured, and that Russia, who is the enemy of the liberties of Europe, should have her poison-fangs torn out, before she can consolidate and increase her annexations for her own advantage.

So a league between Russia and Germany is a menace to all Europe. European statesmen doubtless perceive it, but they seem to be in a dilemma. The other European Powers appear to be helpless against Russia and Germany combined. The fall of France is the root of the evil. Until France is able to return the blow she has received from Germany, an alliance between the other Powers of Europe we fear will be of no practical avail. The greatest mistake these Powers committed was to have allowed France to fall an easy prey to Germany. Kossuth thus writes about the Turks:

"I feel thankfully indebted to the Porte. And I do not, like many people, consider gratitude to be a burden, but to be a dear obligation. I learned to esteem highly the noble qualities of the Turkish national character. And I learned it the more from the admirable phenomenon, that this people of tenacious morales could not be corrupted in their rich social virtues even by the pestiferous air which has floated over them from Constantinople through a period of several centuries, during which this capital has been converted into a witch-kettle of European intrigues, fighting for the maintenance of the equilibrium. This corrupt influence has found among the higher circles around that kettle individuals accessible to bribery; but the country people remain attached to the moral feelings and to the holy relics of social virtues, in the same way as in Hungary the eternal holy flame of nationality has been kept burning around the hearths of our people, while it has been extinguished in the palaces. It is true that the Turkish people remain still far behind in what we call civilization. This is not the fault of their susceptibilities, nor of their willingness. But it is quite certain that only national morality can supply a good soil for the roots of liberal institutions, and that they decay or become false without it. Quite as certain is it that the world would admiringly contemplate how easy the most liberal institutions would take root, how naturally they would become acclimatized among the Turkish people if Europe would but prevent the hereditary foe of the Turkish Empire from interfering with the spread of endeavours inspired by the warnings of time.

But what can Turkey single-handed do? She has fought bravely, but she is weak in numbers, and Russia is gradually taking her strong posts. She may yet be saved, if the great Powers of Europe will combine and protect her. But who is to bell the cat?

DR. WOODFORD'S CASE.

THE Government of Bengal has issued its orders on Dr. Woodford's case. His Honor the Lieutenant Governor has recorded a long and elaborate Resolution in the matter. It appears from the Resolution that in February last the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor was directed to the increase which had occurred in the number of patients treated at the Sealdah Pauper Hospital since it was taken over by Government from the late Justice in the end of 1873. The Surgeon-General was accordingly requested to submit comparative statements of the expenditure incurred under each head during the years 1873—1876 inclusive. In reply the Surgeon-General submitted tables which showed a very remarkable increase of cost under all heads, and Dr. Beatson expressed his disapproval of "the immense expenditure now revealed in respect of Europe medicines and stimulants." The Lieutenant-Governor thought it desirable under the circumstances to appoint a Committee to enquire into the causes which had led to the increased cost of the hospital, and to report what measures should be adopted for restricting the expenditure to what is really necessary for a pauper hospital, instead of bringing it up to the standard of the hospitals established in Calcutta for the better classes of natives. The Surgeon-General was at the same time requested to instruct Dr. Woodford to explain his requirements fully to the Committee. The report of the Committee, the Lieutenant Governor remarks, "disclosed circumstances, which left no room for doubt that a system of fraud as to diets and hospital expenditure, and misappropriation of medicines, had been allowed to prevail for some time in the hospital. The Lieutenant Governor therefore found it his duty to desire the Surgeon-General to relieve Dr. Woodford of the charge of the hospital, pending the decision of Government on the explanation which he was required to submit." Dr. Woodford has submitted the desired explanation. The Lieutenant Governor "is much surprised to find that the Surgeon-General has accepted it as sufficient,." Dr. Woodford in his defence challenges the accuracy of the figures of expenditure put forward by the Committee, and also alleges that such increase as did take place was the necessary result of the institution of a medical school at the hospital, and that he was expressly prohibited by the Deputy Surgeon-General, the late Dr. Buckle, from interfering to control the officers in charge of the different wards in prescribing medicines and extras. He further complains that he was not questioned by the Committee on details. But, the Lieutenant Governor remarks, "the Committee were not empowered to place him on his defence, nor did the instructions issued by Government in any way contemplate such a measure. Dr. Woodford was expected to assist the Committee in their enquiry, and was asked to explain his requirements fully to them, in order that they might be enabled to draw up the scheme required by Government in accordance with the real wants of the hospital. Dr. Woolford appears to have met the Committee with a definite statement, once for all, that he was not authorized to control the expenditure of the hospital. The Committee were thus left to form their own unaided judgment on the evidence of the records." The Resolution then goes on:

The case, so far as it deals with maladministration and entire want of control and supervision over the hospital expenditure, is an exceedingly simple one, and is entirely established by Dr. Woodford's own statements and admissions. But as the Surgeon-General has, in forwarding the reply of Dr. Woodford, gone the length of imputing to the members of the Committee, gentlemen possessing the entire confidence of Government and holding very honourable positions in the public service, a "hasty and unwarrantable generalization" and an "absence of judicial propriety," and even has gone as far as to accuse them of basing their report on "the statements of despicable native informers," the Lieutenant-Governor has been forced into a lengthy and elaborate analysis of the figures relied upon by the Committee and by Dr. Woodford respectively with a view of showing that the conclusions of the Committee are entirely borne out by the facts which were before them, and that the assertion that they are based upon the statements of native informers is absolutely without the slightest foundation. There is from first to last in the Committee's report no single statement which is not based upon the records of the hospital itself.

The Lieutenant Governor thus deals with the general defence of Dr. Woodford:

Before proceeding to examine in detail the course of the expenditure under each head, the Lieutenant-Governor must remark that Dr. Woolford's repudiation of all responsibility for the increase, and his assertion that he was debarred by superior authority from interference with the prescriptions of the different members of the hospital staff, are entirely unsupported, extremely improbable, and are directly opposed to the evidence of the orders which he himself issued to his subordinates. Dr. Woodford cannot produce any document which gives the least colour to such an assertion; and Dr. Buckle is most unlikely to have taken upon himself to give an order which he had no power or authority to give, even if he entertained the opinion which Dr. Woodford attributes to him. Dr. Woodford has demi-official letters from Dr. Buckle treating of other details, but he has nothing whatever to show, even indirectly, that he received, or that it was ever contemplated that he should receive, orders which must so affect the management of the hospital as to make its superintendent practically irresponsible. He can only offer extracts from alleged conversations with Dr. Buckle, which in the light of his own avowed practice cannot be accepted. He admits that on his own authority he reduced the prescribed allowance of rice in the full diets which had been formally approved by Government, from 12 chittacks to 10. In a circular order dated 17th December 1875 he told the "teachers and assistant surgeons" that he feared that "little more than one-half of the medicines prescribed and dispensed are received or taken by the sick;" and he proceeded to give an order directly affecting the *manner* of prescribing medicines. The very terms in which this order is couched shows the inefficiency of Dr. Woodford's superintendence. His fears were based on "the many complaints made to him on all sides." Thus it appears that many complaints had to be made to him from quarters before he noticed the matter at all, and that when he did notice it, he took no steps whatever to ascertain whether the complaints were well founded or not. Though he feared that a system of wholesale peculation of drugs was going on, and that this might "in a great measure account for the increased rate of mortality," he made no enquiry, but contented himself with accusing the establishment

under him of dishonesty. He now, finding himself in the awkward position of having then admitted what he now seeks to deny, most improperly says that he used words of criminal implication for the mere purpose of emphasizing his orders. This statement cannot be accepted, and Dr. Woodford would better have consulted his own reputation if he had never made it. The proper way to emphasize his orders would have been to make a thorough investigation, and to satisfy himself that his charges were substantial, and that the orders he issued with a view to remedying the abuse of Government stores were being carried out. His argument amounts to this, that etiquette prevented him from revising the teachers' prescriptions, but not from frightening them by accusations of fraud. In May 1876 he called attention to the orders of December 1875. It is from this quite clear that Dr. Woodford had, and knew that he had, the most complete power of interference in the matter both of diets and of medicines; but even had this authority been restricted as he asserts, this circumstance would afford no justification of his neglect to bring the condition of things to the Surgeon-General's notice, and to relieve himself of all responsibility by recording a protest against the waste of public money that was going on.

Dr. Woodford also lays especial stress on the plea that some increase in expenditure of the hospital was inevitable after the establishment of the medical school in the end of 1873, as the whole character of the institution was thereby changed. This is a view which cannot be accepted, except so far as it relates to petty items of expenditure necessary for the purpose of teaching the students. The Government never had any intention, and never gave the least indication of an intention, to change the status of the hospital from what it always was and still is—a panper hospital. The instructions which were formally issued for the guidance of the Superintendent are still in force, and it is precisely because they have been deliberately disobeyed that the present enquiry has been found necessary. But in fact Dr. Woodford's argument does not help him at all. It might give some colour of justification to an increase in 1874 over 1873. But it will be seen that there was also a large increase in 1873 over 1872, when there was no medical school, and in 1875 over 1874, in both of which years there was a medical school fully established. If the medical school was to be of any use at all, it was clearly necessary that the pupils of the vernacular class should be taught to treat the sick with such resources as are available to them in an ordinary dispensary; that they should be specially taught to substitute cheap native drugs for expensive English medicines; and that they should learn to watch conscientiously and scrupulously over the Government stores entrusted to them.

The Lieutenant Governor has entered into an elaborate analysis of the charges, diets and extras. Referring to the extras His Honor is of opinion "that they shew conclusively, not that the patients were treated with remarkable liberality, but that Government was henceforth systematically defrauded." Then His Honor says, "he has before him positive proof of the falsification of the hospital records. It has been found that the extra diet sheets have been systematically tampered with by the hospital establishment after the sheets have been signed by the assistant surgeons." His Honor adds, "it is quite clear to the Lieutenant-Governor that the practice of the hospital degenerated into one of charging for the largest quantity of supplies that would pass muster, without any reference to actual consumption." "His (Dr. Woodford's) case, as stated by himself, is much worse than the Committee caused it to appear." His Honor thus concludes the Resolution:

> The facts brought to light by this enquiry have left no possibility of doubt that a system of peculation and extravagance has been allowed to prevail for years in this hospital. Setting aside all arguments deducible from figures quoted, Dr. Woodford's recorded orders in 1875 and 1876 admit it, and the evidence of the extra diet sheets of last July show that it was up to the end of his administration still unchecked. The only single argument that can be urged in Dr. Woodford's defence is that this entire absence of control and supervision of the hospital under his charge was not checked or controlled by his departmental superiors, and that, so far from being condemned by them, he has received from them encouragement and support. But this is a matter which the Lieutenant-Governor cannot permit to influence him in the conclusion at which he is compelled to arrive on the plain issue as to whether or not there has been a gross and entirely unexplained waste of stores, medicines and drugs in the Sealdah Pauper Hospital, though it might have been considered had the Lieutenant-Governor had to consider finally the proper mode of indicating his dissatisfaction with Dr. Woodford's administration of the affairs of the hospital if he had remained in the service. This, however, the Lieutenant-Governor is spared the necessity of doing. Dr. Woodford has received two extensions of service beyond the usual period, and the Accountant-General having reported that the last of these extensions lapsed on the 1st January, Dr. Woodford ceased to belong to the Government service from that date. His inefficient superintendence of the hospital would have disqualified him for any further extension even if he had applied for it, which he has not. The general question of the control of medical expenditure and supervision of the hospitals under the Government will be dealt with separately.

No one with an unbiassed mind can, we submit, reasonably contest the conclusions arrived at by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor. If the Resolution is incisive, it is the facts, furnished by himself and found by the Committee, which have cut up Dr. Woodford, and not any words, which His Honor has used. It pains us to see an officer in Dr. Woodford's position close the evening of his official career under a heavy cloud but he must thank himself for his misfortune. The Lieutenant Governor was bound to do his duty, however unpleasant, and no one who knew Mr. Eden could for a moment doubt that he would do it manfully, regardless of personal considerations. He has gone to his task straight, without leaning one way or another, and it is this even-handed justice, which raises him in public estimation. It is only strange that this practice of systematic fraud and falsification of records under Dr. Woodford's lax supervision was going on for several years without attracting the notices of the Medical Department or the Government. We should like to know how have the underlings, who built up this system of fraud and falsification, been dealt with, but we believe separate orders have been issued on that subject.

THE JUDICIARY *vrs.* THE EXECUTIVE.

MR. EDEN was one of the staunchest opponents of the Collector clauses of the new Civil Procedure Code, as they are called, and if he gave in, it was because he found the opinion of the Executive Council too strong on the subject. In expressing his opposition to the Council Mr. Eden assured it that there was no necessity for the enforcement of the clauses in Bengal. Such being the case we confess we were little prepared to see application made in the name of his Government for the enforcement of the clauses in a matter, to which the law did not apply. In the execution of a decree in a mortgage suit instituted by Babu Doorga Churn Law against Mr. Morrell of the Morrellgunj the defendant applied to the Subordinate Judge of Jessore for the staying of the public sale of the decreed property and for its temporary alienation and management by the Collector in view of the repayment of the debt spread over a number of years. This application was backed by the Collector of Jessore, who represented that under section 326 of the new Civil Procedure Code the property should be made over to him for management. The Subordinate Judge recorded a judgment shewing that section 326 did not apply to the case before him inasmuch as it was governed by sections 322 and 325, it being declared in Section 322 that "whenever the execution of a decree not being a decree directing the sale of immovable property in pursuance of a contract specifically affecting the same, but being a decree for money in satisfaction of which the Court has ordered the sale of immovable property has been so transferred, the Collector" &c. Now, the SubordinateJudge of Jessore informed the Collector that transfer of the property to him for management could not be made as the decree was not for money-debt, which was contemplated by section 322, but for mortage debt, which had been expressly excluded from it. That the view of the Subordinate Judge was correct we will shew by quoting the following remarks of Sir Arthur Hobhouse, which he made in moving the passing of the Bill. Sir Arthur said:

> Now, it would be convenient if at this point he explained to the Council what were the provisions that were so much complained of and what they did not effect. They would be found in the sections of Bill No. 5, which are numbered 320 to 325. He omitted Section 326 because it was only a repetition of what was in the existing Code, and he did not for the present speak of Section 327, because it turned upon some considerations which were peculiar to itself. Now, in the first place, these sections did not of their own force work any alterations either in the law or in practice, for they were only to be brought into action when and where the executive Government thought fit; in the second place, they did not interfere with any specific contracts affecting land, such as a mortgage for instance. If, for instance, land was to be sold in pursuance of a mortgage, the only powers the Collector would have over the sale were those powers which a prudent vender by auction sale reserved to himself—the powers of lotting the property, of adjourning the sale, or fixing a reserved bid, and of buying in. But in connection with this point he should say that owing to inadvertence in the drawing of Bill No. 4, it might have been considered that the whole of these sections applied to mortgages, as well as to unsecured money debts. That was obvious indeed from the context and also from what he said in Council, that they were not so intended to apply; and in his comments Mr. Justice Turner had treated it as an obvious slip, and with his invariable fairness he had taken no advantage of it in his arguments. But Sir Arthur mentioned this matter in consequence of what seemed to be the somewhat exaggerated views entertained by various of their critics.

The above remarks shew that mortgage was not covered by the sections referred to. Strange to say that notwithstanding the distinct opinion recorded by the Subordinate Judge, the Collector again made an application, and now with the powerful support of Government. We give the correspondence below:

No. 804.

From—W. H. PAGE ESQ.,—Offg. Collector of Jessore,—To The SUBORDINATE JUDGE OF JESSORE,—Dated Jessore the 29th December 1877.

SIR,—In October last I addressed you on the subject of making over to me for management the attached Estates of Messrs. Morrell of Morrellgunge.

2. At that time I made the request on the petition of Mr. Morrell only, and as you thought there was a legal objection to the concession, you declined to grant it.

3. I have now the honour to renew the application, and to forward you a copy of a letter No. 3405 dated 24th December 1877 from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue by which I am directed to do so.

4. I forward also the papers previously laid before you for the purpose of shewing you that the debts can be liquidated in 18 years or less.

5. If it is not shown to your satisfaction by means of these papers that the decrees may be probably satisfied within the time mentioned, and if the time appears to you to be unreasonably long, I request that you will inform me, inorder that I may call upon Mr. Morrell to satisfy you that he will be able to pay off the decrees in a reasonable time.

6. If however you are still of opinion that the objection previously stated by you is fatal to the present application, I beg that you will favor me with an early reply inorder that I may communicate the result to the Government through the Commissioner.

I have the honor to be,—SIR,—Your most obedient servant,—(Sd.) W. H. PAGE,—Offg. Collector.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.
Land Revenue.
No. 3405.

From H. J. REYNOLD ESQ.—Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—To,—The SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,—Land Revenue Department,—Calcutta the 24th December 1877.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 100A dated the 15th of December 1877 and annexures, and in reply, I am to say that in accordance with the strong recommendation of the local officers and the Board, the Lieutenant Governor* is pleased to authorize the Collectors of Jessore and Backergunge to make representations to the Civil Courts of their respective districts under section 326 of Act X of 1877, and to make the Courts to commit the temporary management of Mr. Morrell's Estates to the charge of the Collectors. It will of course be understood that the success of this application must, in a great measure depend on its being shewn to the satisfaction of the court that by such management the decrees against the Estates may probably be satisfied within a reasonable period. The papers which have been submitted to Government do not fully shew this, but it is presumed that Mr. Morrell or his local agents will be able to furnish the necessary particulars to enable the courts to decide upon the application.

2. The Lieutenant Governor will await a further report from the Board upon the system of management which it is proposed to adopt, and this report should be accompanied by full particulars of the assets of the property and the extent of the liabilities of the proprietors.

3. I am to add to save time these orders have been communicated demi-officially direct to the Collector of Backergunge.

(Sd.) H. REYNOLDS,
Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

What can a poor Subordinate Judge do, if pressure of this kind is brought to bear upon him in the interpretation of the law? If he was wrong, a motion could have been made to the High Court. At any rate the Government should not have moved in the matter without consulting its law officers, and we feel sure that the Advocate General, if he had been consulted, would not have advised the Government to take a course in contravention of the law. No Judge, who is alive to his position and duties, will of course be influenced by the action of Government in a matter, which is not within its legitimate province. And in justice to the Subordinate Judge of Jessore we must say that he has maintained his ground boldly and fearlessly. But the question is—has the action of Government been fair and consistent with the law? When it is clear as the noon-day sun that the Collector has no right to intervene and claim the management of an estate, under a decree not for money debt but upon a mortgage suit, the action of the Government in this matter, to say the least, is ill-advised. Mr. Eden we are aware is the last man to influence the course of justice in any way, but we are afraid he did not consider the gravity of the action taken when he caused the letter we have quoted above to be addressed to the Board of Revenue. If there was any doubt in the matter, the proper course we repeat was to move the High Court.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

ON THURSDAY LAST His Excellency the Viceroy granted a private reception to the following noblemen and gentlemen: His Highness the

Maharajah of Benares, His Highness the Maharajah of Burdwan, Maharaja Narendrakrishna, Sirdar Utter Sing, Newab Asgar Ali Delwar Jung, Newab Mir Mahomed Ali, Raja Sir Jaymungal Sing and son, Raja Harendra Krishna Bahadur, Raja Rajendra Mullick Bahadur and son, Dr. Showrendra Mohun Tagore, Babu Juggadanund Mookerjea and Moulavi Abdul Luteef Khan Bahadur. These noblemen and gentlemen were received one after another. His Excellency as usual was courteous and cordial.

WE HEAR that Mr. Kirkwood of Chittagong notoriety has elected the judicial line of the service. He will be certainly less mischievous as a Judge than as a Magistrate, but we doubt whether he has a judicial cast of mind. It is rumoured that he goes to Furreedpore to act as District Judge in the room of Mr. Peterson for one month.

WE ARE requested to mention that Babu Chundernath Bose, Pleader, High Court, has subscribed Rs. 100 in aid of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

COL. BURNE, Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy, left for Europe on Monday last. Mr. S. C. Bayley will act as Private Secretary to the Viceroy in addition to his present duties till Col. Colley's return. Col. Burne was to have left in March next, but he has been obliged to hurry away in consequence of the receipt of unhappy news from home. We are afraid Col. Burne is not likely to return to India. In him the Viceroy loses an experienced, honest and trusty counsellor and a genial friend, the people of India a warm-hearted advocate, and a large number of European and Native gentlemen, who have the pleasure of knowing him, an affable, courteous and obliging friend.

WE ARE requested to draw attention to a Police advertisement in another column. Accidents owing to rash driving occur every now and then, but although the Police have repeatedly called attention to the evil, and done their best to check it, they have, we are sorry to note, not been successful. They now justly invite the co-operation of the public. One cause of the frequency of the accidents is due to the carelessness of the pedestrians. Many of them will not walk on the foot-paths, but in the middle of the carriage way. This is much to be regretted. Perhaps it would be well if the Police were gently to suggest to the pedestrians to use the foot-paths. Unfortunately the most crowded thoroughfare, we mean the Chitpore Road, has the narrowest footpath.

WE THANK Messrs. Wyman and Co., for a copy of their New Indian Directory for 1878. They have been punctual in the issue of the Directory. The present volume is much fuller than its predecessor. The table of contents shews how varied and useful is the information given. The alphabetical list of residents in the Town and Mofussil is complete. The Directory has been prepared with great intelligence, care and labour. Need we say that this Directory will be equally useful to the residents of the Town and the Mofussil.

ANOTHER proof of the triumph of law in British India. The "Zenana Abduction case" of Lucknow as it is called, the *Lucknow Times* says, has been decided by the Civil Judge, "just as the Hindu community desired it should be settled," that is to say according to law. The Civil Judge has ruled that the Brahmin girl being a minor should be restored to her lawful guardian. Thus the Mission-house has been compelled to disgorge its prey. We hope the Missionary Societies will take steps to put a stop to baby-conversions, which tend only to bring discredit upon them.

WE ARE sorry to record the death of Dr. Elliott from cholera on Wednesday last. The disease set in at about 5 A. M. and all was over by about 2 P. M. Its course was most rapid and fatal from the commencement. Dr. Elliot was highly esteemed by those who knew him. He was the first doctor, who was charged to enquire into and report upon the causes of the Hooghly Epidemic fever, and although his first conclusions were crude, he subsequently came to the opinion that obstructed drainage was the cause of the fever. His body was interred with military honors. The deceased was a resident of palatial Chowringhee, and it would be interesting if the Health-Officer would report how the fell disease invaded his house.

WE HAVE received, too for publication, a copy of the petition to Parliament of the Indian Disestablishment Society against the ecclesiastical establishment in British India. The Association pray "for the sake of consistency and justice and in the interests of religion itself that such steps may be taken as Her Majesty's ministers and Parliament may in their wisdom deem necessary and right to secure the discontinuance of all ecclesiastical payments out of the revenues of the empire." This petition ought to be followed up by similar representations from the native populations of the country.

WE ARE GLAD to learn that the Director of Public Instruction has appointed Babu Radhica Prosunno Mookerjea, Head-master of the Hooghly Normal School, to take charge of the office of Mr. Garrett, Inspector of Schools, Presidency Circle, during the absence of the latter on leave, and to act as his own head-assistant. Babu Radhica Prosunno Mookerjea well deserves the confidence which the Director has thus reposed in him.

ON TUESDAY LAST a very interesting gathering of native gentlemen was held at the Albert Hall to receive the members of the Deputation of the Poona Survajanik Sabha. Maharaja Narendra krishna was voted to the chair. He introduced the deputation to the meeting, when the Rev. Dr. K. M. Bannerjee addressed a few hearty words of welcome to them in the name of the inhabitants of Calcutta. Rao Bahadur Sadashiva Bullal thanked the meeting on behalf of the deputation. In doing this he took the opportunity to explain to the meeting the object of the deputation, which he said was two-fold, firstly to move the legislature to reduce the stamp duties for papers connected with private arbitration, and secondly to promote unity of action between the native populations of the different Provinces on public questions. He said that he was proud of his birth as a Brahmin, for the Brahmins were the chosen people of God, to whom the Creator in His supreme goodness was pleased to reveal His Words, but in the eyes of the British Government there was no distinction of birth or caste—all persons, Maharajas, Rajas and others were on the same level, and they should therefore all unite to represent their sentiments, feelings and requirements, to their rulers. The formal part of the meeting being ever, the members of the deputation were introduced individually to the gentlemen present. After the distribution of garlands, utter and pan the company broke up.

ON WEDNESDAY last the members of the Deputation met the Committee of the British Indian Association at their rooms in British Indian Street. The Chairman, Raja Degumber Mitter C.S.I., gave them a hearty welcome on behalf of the Association, saying that an interchange of ideas between the representatives of different provinces would be highly beneficial to the common cause, and that the British Indian Association would be always glad to co-operate in furtherance of this object. The Deputation then submitted the following questions for discussion :

1. The Indian Civil Service Question, upon which a general expression of native opinion has been secured by the efforts of Baboo Surendranath

2. The question of the income-tax, which is likely to be imposed to meet famine charges.

3. The question of demanding a Parliamentary Commission of inquiry into the causes of frequent recurrence of famines of late years, and of the success of the preventive and remedial measures adopted by Government.

4. The question of the liberty of the native press, about which it is rumoured that the Government is seriously thinking of passing exceptional laws to curb its alleged license.

5. The question of the extension of the permanent settlement of land revenue with suitable modifications to other presidencies.

6. The policy pursued of late in regard to schools and colleges for higher education.

7. The proposal to levy excise duties upon cotton yarn produce in native mills.

8. The question how far reduction in public expenditure can be practically suggested as advisable.

9 The question of the withdrawal of State support from the Christian ecclesiastical establishments.

10 The question of the enlargement of the Legislative Council by the admission of more non-official native members.

11. The question of the extension of the elective franchise in the Municipalities of the larger cities in the mofussil.

These questions were discussed *seriatim*. The Committee informed the deputation that some of these questions had been already anticipated by them as well as by the Government, and that in regard to others unity of action was very desirable. On some points the Committee were of opinion that local action was needed. They also mooted a few other questions of general interest not included in the programme of the Deputation, on which combined action was necessary. There was a general agreement between the Committee and the members of the Deputation on the questions discussed. The Deputation retired after thanking the Committee for the warm and cordial reception given to them. A meeting of the representatives of the Native Press has been convened by the Deputation at the Town Hall for this evening.

A GREAT man has passed away. Victor Emmanuel, the Liberator of Italy, is dead. He was born on the 14th March 1820, and was thus in the fifty-seventh year of his age, when he died. He was a strong and athletic man, and a born soldier. He took an active part, as Duke of Savoy, in the events of 1848, accompanying his father to the field, and behaving with great bravery at the battles of Goito and Novara. His father Charles Albert abdicated in 1849, and on his succession to the throne Victor Emmanuel found himself in a critical position, Austria then being a victor in the field. But he succeeded in obtaining from Austria terms less humiliating than those offered to his father. We give the following sketch of his career from the *Men of the Time*:

On mounting the throne of Sardinia he endeavoured to reorganize the finances, the army, and the system of public instruction, concluded with England several treaties of commerce, established railways, and promoted free trade. He indignantly refused the offer made by Austria for the cession of Parma, provided he would abolish the constitution. Genoa having revolted, and expelled his garrison, he sent an army against it, recovered his former rights, and his efforts for the prosperity of his kingdom were generally successful. He had, however, one great struggle throughout his reign with the court and clergy of Rome. Guided by Count Cavour, he confiscated much church property, and took away many clerical privileges. He concluded, in January 1855, a convention with France and England, to take part in the war against Russia, and despatched to the Crimea an army of 17,000 men, under Gen. De La Marmora, which distinguished itself by a victory on the banks of the Tchernaya. Sardinia took part in the Conference of Paris, where her ambassador laid before the representatives an able paper on the state of Italy. In 1859. Austria summoned Sardinia to disarm, but in vain; and the Austrian army crossed the Ticino. The Emperor of the French despatched a powerful army to Italy, and having assssumed the command, joined the Sardinian forces, and defeated the Austrians at Montebello, May 20; at Palestro, May 30 and 31; at Magenta, June 4; and at Solferino, June 24, the emperor and the king being present in person. The Austrians were expelled from Lombardy, the princes from Naples, Tuscany, Parma, and Modena and the Treaty of Villa Franca, concluded July 11, confirmed by the treaty of Zurich, November 10, terminated the war and established Victor Emmanuel as King of Italy. The Parliament, assembled at Turin, March 17, 1861, formally established the title, which was recognized by England March 30, and the France June 24. A treaty for the transfer of the seat of Government from Turin to Florence, and the evacuation of Rome by the French in two years, was signed September 15, 1864. The court was transferred to Florence in 1865, and the French army was withdrawn from Rome in 1867. In 1866 the king of Italy making common cause with Prussia, by a treaty signed May 12, declared war against Austria. The Italian army was defeated by the Austrians at Custozza, June 24, and the Italian fleet sustained a reverse off Lissa, July 20; but in consequence of the success of the Prussians, peace was signed at Vienna, October 3, by which Venice and the territory of Venetia were ceded to Italy, and Victor Emmanuel made his public entry into Venice, November 7.

Victor Emmanuel raised Italy to the rank of a Power in Europe. Little is known of Prince Humbert, who has succeeded him.

LOCAL.

BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

(Concluded from the Supplement.)

Several important measures have been introduced into the Viceregal Council, two of which I will briefly notice. The first is the transfer of Property Bill. It is a most important measure, and a decided improvement in many respects upon the existing laws on the subject. It greatly simplifies the procedure in respect of the transfer of property, and if the objectional parts be amended and modified, I have no doubt it will be a valuable addition to our substantive laws. I am sorry I cannot say the same thing of the Master and Servant Bill. This Bill contemplates conditions, usages and customs, which have no existence in this country, and is therefore not adapted to the circumstances of Indian society. It will revolutionize the relations between master and servant among the Indian population, complicate our domestic matters, drive the people to litigation, and introduce discord and disturbance into the every day relations of master and servant. Whatever might be the European feeling on the subject, I for one would recommend that this Bill be not extended to native employers and native *employes*.

Baboo Joykissen Mookerjee said:—

As at the beginning of the year, so at its close, we are threatened with fresh taxation. I need hardly say that as loyal subjects it is our duty to co-operate with the Government in its present position. It has had to face three gigantic famines during the last ten years. The immense expenditure incurred to save people from starvation and death must be made up somehow or other. The people of England have most generously come to our help; but in calamities of such magnitude, private donations go only a little way. The Government has incurred heavy debt, the interest of which must at any rate be provided for. The question is, how this deficiency is to be made up. There are only two alternatives open to the State—economy, and fresh taxation. The whole country loudly calls for the former, before any recourse is had to the latter. Economy will be secured to some extent by doing away with the new Chief Commissionership of Assam, which has imposed upon the country a large additional expenditure without any adequate result. That province can be well managed, as it has been well managed during the last thirty or forty years, by the Government of Bengal. Again, where is the necessity for the highly-paid Councils of Madras and Bombay, when Bengal can do without one; and where again is the necessity for separate Commanders-in-Chief for these presidencies! One Commander-in Chief for all India in these days of railways and telegraphs, and it may be of elephone, should suffice. A revision of the Native Army would combine economy with efficiency. These reductions if effected would, I believe, yield more than half-a-million. There are then the Home Military Charges which alone, according to high authorities, are susceptible of reduction to the extent of a million. So long as there is room for such extensive reductions, I do not think it would be fair to burden the people—suffering from drought and disease—with additional taxation. I understand that the Finance Minister announced to-day his scheme of taxation to meet the Famine expenditure, *viz.*, a license-tax throughout India a land tax of one per cent, upon the rental for Northern India, an increase of the salt duty in Madras and Bombay, and a slight reduction of that duty in Northern India and Bengal. I am not in a position to discuss off-hand this elaborate scheme of taxation, but my present impression is that, thought it would be but just to tax the trades and professions, direct taxation of this kind was sure to be attended with annoyance, extortion and oppression. What I wish to urge is that if the necessities of the State absolutely require additional taxation, it must be had recourse to, but the Government ought to satisfy the tax-payers that it has done all that it could in the way of reduction before it levied fresh taxes.

I will avail myself of this opportunity of saying that some check ought to be put on the working of the Legislative mill: the country is suffering from manifold calamities; why add to these sufferings a Legislative inundation? There are several new Bills before the Council; for instance, the Transfer of Property Bill, the Bill about negotiable instruments, the Master and Servant Bill, and the Stamp Bill. I am well aware that some of the provisions contained in those Bills will remedy some of the existing evils to a certain extent, but I cannot refrain from saying that in their present form they will do more harm than good. They will unsettle our social and commercial relations. It would be far better if the Legislative mill were stopped for ten years. A decennial Legislative Session would be a blessing to the country. I would particularly appeal to Mr. Cockerell, on behalf of the people and of the Judges and suitors, to desist from proceeding with his Stamp Bill, which introduces so many changes as regards the imposition of stamp duties that it will puzzle the Judges and barristers, and the suitors as well, and at the same time increase the cost of litigation, without giving any adequate return. At any rate, this increase cost to the people will press hard upon them, with the new burdens imposed upon them by the Finance Minister.

Baboo Judulal remarked that there seemed to be an impression in certain official quarters that the people of this country are opposed to taxation, because they did not like to pay taxes. Now, throughout the world no one likes to pay if he could help it, but the people of this country fully recognize their obligation, as loyal subjects, to contribute to the necessities of the State. He was however, of opinion that taxation and representation ought to go hand in hand. The taxes upon the people were rapidly increasing, but they had no voice in the administration of those taxes. This he considered was unjust and opposed to the principle of the English nation throughout its vast dominions. Since Lord Mayo's time the taxation engine is working in various ways—imperial, provincial, and municipal, but the taxpayers have not gained one iota in the way of representation, either in the imposition or in the administration of these taxes. When we welcomed Lord Northbrook, about six years ago, we said in an address to his Lordship, that the country was suffering from these evils—over-legislation, over taxation, and over-anxiety, for improvement. But have these evils abated since? He was sorry to say, No. Our laws were now becoming more and more technical and complicated, and if the new Bills regarding transfer of property and master and servant pass in their present shape, they would benefit only one class of the community—the legal profession. The people at large would suffer. We have seen how English technicalities have practically nullified our testamentary power. Why, in these days a Hindoo was not sure whether his will would stand a judicial test after he was dead and gone—such was the glorious uncertainty of our English courts of law. He concluded by protesting against the Master and Servant Bill. It was, he said, wholly unsuited to the circumstances of native society, and not wanted by the natives. Even the Europeans who cried for a law on the subject, were not satisfied with it. A Bill so universally condemned, ought not certainly to find a place in our statute-book.

The meeting separated after a vote of thanks to the chair.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS	Rs.	As.	P.
Moulvi Abdul Bary, Bhangulpore	8	4	0
Moulvi Azmooddeen Hossain, Bankipore	2	13	0
Secretary Reading Club, Jullunder City	3	5	0
H. H. Maharaja of Indore	13	4	0
D. J. Pooli Esq-, Cuttack	13	4	0
Rai Poornanund Barooah Bahadoor, Gwalpara	13	4	0
The Chairman District Road Cess Committee, Tipperah	19	8	0
Sholapore Native General Library	13	4	0
Secretary Reading Club, Jounpur	6	10	0
Syud Jumshaid Ali, Scetamurhee	6	10	0
H. V. Sreenevasa Row Esq-, Chittaldroog	2	0	0
Baboo Huro Lal Kur, Dainan	10	0	0
,, Bissumbhar Bose, Krishnaghur	10	0	0
,, Boikuntha Nath Dey, Balasore	13	4	0
,, Bhoobun Mohun Bose, Banda	20	0	0
,, Sristy Dhur Ghose, Dehree	10	0	0
,, Narendra Narain Roy, Meherpore	10	0	0
,, Horomohun Das, Rungpore	13	4	0
,, Prosunno Coomar Sen, Gaibanda	6	10	0
,, Chunder Coomar Gangooly, Bariely	13	4	0
,, Haran Chunder Das, Jullunder	6	10	0
,, Preonath Banerjea, Kaliabar	13	4	0
,, Dwarkanath Mookerjee, Jangipore	10	6	0
,, Rakhal Das Haldar, Ranchee	13	4	0
,, Sreesh Chunder Banerjee, Pabna	6	10	0
,, Kally Krishna Mookerjee, Bhaugulpore	10	0	0
,, Balmokoond Danee, Chotanagpore	13	4	0
,, Bany Madhub Roy, Banda	6	10	0
,, Dwarkaprsad, Etwah	6	10	0
,, Koonjo Kishore Sen, Gwalparah	13	4	0
,, Mudden Mohun Das, and others, Sylhet	3	0	0
,, Tarruck Nath Dutt, Bardone	6	8	0
,, Haran Chunder Chatterjee, Nowgong	5	0	0
ERRATUM.			
Babu Read Sivaprosanno Ghose, Contai in lieu of Samaprosanno Ghose	5	0	0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*January*, 9, 1878.

GENERAL.—Baboo Sreenath Bhudder, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Chittagong, is allowed leave for one month, under Section 3, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of the leave granted to him under orders of the 31st July 1877.

Lieutenant J. F. Rivett Carnac, Officiating Assistant Commissioner, in charge of the Palamow Division of the Lohardugga district, is vested with special appellate powers under Section 87 of the Land Registration Act VII (B.C.) of 1876.

Lieutenant Rivett-Carnac is also vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X (B.C.) of 1871.

Mr. E. Stewart, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Sasseram Division of the Shahabad district, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870 for the purpose of acquiring land required for the conservation of forests in village Rehal, pergunnah Rohtas.

Mr. A. Smith, Officiating Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, is appointed to officiate as Commissioner of the Dacca Division during the absence, on leave, of Mr. F. B. Peacock, or until further orders.

Mr. W. S. Wells, Magistrate and Collector of Shahabad, is appointed to officiate until further orders as Commissioner of the Burdwan Division.

Mr. C. A. Wilkins, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahabad, is appointed to officiate temporarily as Magistrate and Collector of that district until relieved by Mr. Edgar.

Mr. R. T. Sevestre, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Burdwan, is appointed to have temporary charge of the Raneegunge division of that district.

Baboo Raj Gopal Roy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Lohardugga, is transferred to Hazareebagh, with effect from the 19th December 1877.

Baboo Gour Das Bysack, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hooghly, is posted temporarily to Serampore in that district with effect from the date on which he joined his appointment at that station.

Mr. J. E. B. Jeffery, C.S., is allowed furlough in India from the 31st October to the 3rd December 1877, both days inclusive, under Section 12 of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of the furlough granted to him under orders dated the 17th January 1876.

Mr. John Ware Edgar, C.S.I., Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling, is appointed to be a Magistrate and Collector of the Second Grade, *vice* Mr. H. L. Harrison.

Mr. Edgar will act as Magistrate and Collector of Shahabad during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. W. S. Wells, or until further orders.

Mr. W. F. Meres, C.S., who reported his return from furlough on the 13th December 1877, is allowed subsidiary leave for twelve days with effect from that date, to enable him to join his appointment as Officiating Judge of Dinagepore.

Mr. J. A. Hopkins, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the First Grade, on furlough, is appointed to be a Magistrate and Collector of the Third Grade, *vice* Mr. T. F Bignold.

Mr. T. E. Coxhead is promoted from the Second to the First Grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, *vice* Mr. J. A. Hopkins.

Mr. Coxhead will continue to officiate until *further orders* as a Magistrate and Collector of the Second Grade.

Mr. F. J. G. Campbell is appointed to be a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the Second Grade, *vice* Mr. T. E. Coxhead.

Mr. Campbell will continue to officiate until further orders as Additional District and Sessions Judge of Chittagong.

The following officers are appointed to act until further orders in the First Grade of Judges, with effect from the 1st instant:—

Mr. C. D. Field, District and Sessions Judge, Burdwan.

Mr. W. Macpherson, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Cuttack, on leave.

Mr. J. B. Worgan, District and Sessions Judge, Sarun and Chumparun, is appointed to act in the First Grade of Judges during the absence, on leave, of Mr. W. Macpherson, or until further orders.

POLICE.—Mr. W. R. Green, Officiating District Superintendent of Police, Tipperah, is allowed leave for fourteen days, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he availed himself of it.

The Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India has been pleased to grant one month's extension of furlough to Mr. H. Lloyd Jones, District Superintendent of Police, Bengal.

In supercession of the orders of the 25th August 1875, Mr. A. H. Giles, District Superintendent of Police, Gya, is allowed special leave from the afternoon of the 19th September to the forenoon of the 6th November last, under Sections 21 and 35 of the Civil Leave Code.

JUDICIAL.—Mr. G. E. Manisty, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Midnapore, is vested with powers to try summarily the offences mentioned in Section 222 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Advertisements.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC WORKS
IN BENGALI BY
MAHENDRANATH BHATTACHARJYA M. A.

	Rs.	As.	P.
1. Padartha Darshana or Elements of Physics in Bengali (4th edition)	1	4	0

"It leaves no doubt of the capacity of the Bengali tongue to express all that the requirements of science can demand."
Englishman, 28th April 1871.

2. Rasayan or Manual of Chemistry in Bengali (2nd edition)	0	8	0

"Babu Mahendranath is a master of his subject and has done himself full justice in the work before us."
Hindoo Patriot. 19th February 1877.

3. Padartha Vidya or Hand-book of Natural Philosophy in Bengali (6th edition)	0	10	0
4. Vijnan-Sutra or A Primer of Science in Bengali (2nd (edition.)	0	2	6
5. Sahitya Sangraha or Hand-book of Bengali Literature Part I. (3rd edition.)	0	10	0
Part II. (3rd edition	0	12	0

"We cannot sufficiently admire Baboo Mahendranath Bhattacharjya M. A. of the Calcutta University for the services he is rendering to the cause of education and to that of Vernacular Literature. The six volumes before us, for the last mentioned in the list is in two volumes, are all useful books; and the editions they have gone through attest their popularity. We hope the indefatigable author will go on in his useful and beneficent career."
Bengal Magazine, August 1876.

Sold at the Sanscrit Press Depository, the Canning Library, and the School Book Society's Depository Calcutta.

POLICE NOTIFICATION.

Three accidents resulting in loss of life or very serious injury have recently been caused to foot passengers by rash driving on the public streets.

On each occasion, to escape the consequences of his act, the driver of the vehicle drove away at speed, leaving the unfortunate sufferer on the ground.

During the past year the attention of the public has been called repeatedly to the dangerous practice of fast driving, especially after dark, or at crossings, or along crowded thoroughfares.

The public is now informed that the Police have received strict orders to take immediate action against all persons, who endanger the safety of others by riding or driving at improper speed, and the community at large is invited to co-operate with and assist the Police in putting a stop to this dangerous practice.

C. T. METCALFE,
Commissioner of Police.

Calcutta, 7th January 1878.

NOW READY

Price Rs. 12, or with postage 13-8,

WYMAN'S

INDIAN DIRECTORY FOR 1878.

CONTAINING

Lists of the Native Princes and Chiefs of India,

TOGETHER WITH A VAST MASS OF VALUABLE AND USEFUL INFORMATION.

WYMAN & Co.,

Hare Street, Calcutta.

INDIAN FAMINE RELIEF FUND, 1877.

Amount already advertised				Rs. 1,24,599	7	2
Baboo Radhaballabh Sing Deo Raibahadur, Keochiakole, Bancoorah ...				20	0	0
Per Dacca Relief Committee.						
F. H. Harding, Esq. ...	30	0	0			
Col. R. Y. Chambers ...	50	0	0			
Revd. W. C. Bell ...	20	0	0			
Rajah Shama Sanker Roy...	200	0	0			
Baboo Obhoy Charan Bose, Rai Bahadur ...	10	0	0			
„ Govinda Chandra Roy	200	0	0			
„ Kali Prasanna Choudhury	5	0	0			
„ Kaylash Chandra Sein	15	0	0			
„ Nishi Kanta Banerjee..	25	0	0			
Moulvi Roisuddeen Choudhury	25	0	0			
Baboo Kaylash Chandra Sein	5	0	0			
„ Hari Charan Chukerbutty	5	0	0			
„ Ruhiny Kumar Basak, B.A.B.L.	15	0	0			
Moulvi Abdool Hye ...	25	0	0			
Baboo Dwarka Nath Chukerbutty	5	0	0			
Bahoos Hurry Mohan and Redoy Krishna Roy ...	20	0	0			
Baboo Chandra Kumar Bose	10	0	0			
Brahmo Samaj and Philanthropic Society ...	36	0	0			
A Lady friend of the late Sheristadar of the Commissioner's Office, Dacca	5	0	0	706	0	0
Per Manbhoom Relief Committee.						
Baboo Bhairab Chandra Mahapatra ...	5	0	0			
„ Sarup Chandra Pal ...	5	0	0			
„ Lakshmi Kanta Sahu	5	0	0			
„ Kisory Chand Rokhit	5	0	0			
Boys of the Manbazar School	1	8	0			
Subscriptions of less than 5..	27	0	0			
Baboo Ramgopal Gossain...	5	0	0	53	8	0
Per Jessore Relief Committee.						
Guru Charan Roy ...	5	0	0			
Ishwar Chandra Roy ...	5	0	0			
Perbutty Churn Roy ...	5	0	0			
Keshub Lal Roy ...	5	0	0			
Mohesh Chundra Banerjee..	5	0	0			
Ambica Charan Sen ...	3	0	0			
Noculeshwar Roy ...	15	0	0			
Nilmani Vottacharji ...	2	0	0			
Shyma Charan Ghosh ...	5	0	0			
Jogeshwar Roy ...	25	0	0			
Collected at Magurah by the Moonsiff and Sub-divisional officer ...	117	0	0			
Nilmadhub Mookerjee ...	4	0	0			
Collected by the Rural Sub-Registrar of Kaligunge...	246	0	0			
W. H. Page... ...	50	0	0			
Bhoobonashwar Roy Choudhury ...	10	0	0			
Komole Coomary Choudhuranny	25	0	0			
Khetra Mohan Roy Choudhury	10	0	0			
Kristokamini Choudhuranny	10	0	0	547	0	0
Per Collector of Monghyr...				285	0	0
				Rs. 1,26,210	15	2

H. W. I. WOOD,
Hony. Treasurer.

Calcutta, 12th January, 1878.

---

1. WANTED a District Engineer under the Road Cess Committee, Rajshahye, salary commencing ..h Rs. 500, and travelling allowance according to Public Works Department rules. Applications with copies of testimonials to be forwarded to the undersigned by the 25th instant, the selected candidate must join at once.

MOHENDER NATH BOSE,
Vice-Chairman District Road Cess Committee,
Rajshahye.

MACKENZIE LYALL & Co., will sell by auction, in the Exchange Sale-rooms, on Tuesday, the 22nd January, 1878, an extensive shipment of Musical Instruments, to which the especial attention of the public is invited.

MACKENZIE LYALL & CO.

---

2. WANTED an Overseer under the Road Cess Committee, Rajshahye, salary Rs. 150 per mensem, and travelling allowance according to Public Works Department rules. Applications to be forwarded to the undersigned by the 25td instant. Preference will be given to men who have served in the Public Works Department.

MOHENDER NATH BOSE,
Vice-Chairman District Road Cess Committee,
Rajshahye.

9th January, 1878.

NOTICE.

WANTED, a District Engineer by the Burdwan Road Cess Committee, salary Rs. 500 a month, and travelling allowances or higher, for superior qualifications.

Applicants should forward copies of their testimonials to the undersigned on or before the 1st February 1878.

H. TOBIN,
Vice-Chairman for Chairman,
Burdwan D. R. Committees Office.

The 12th January 1878.

By appointment,
To HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJAH DHEERAJ OF BURDWAN.

C. K. SEN & CO.

KOBIRAJ DRUGGISTS AND CHEMISTS,
HINDU MEDICAL HALL
No. 146, *Lower Chitpore Road, Fouzdaree Balakhana,*
C. K. SEN & CO'S

Dantashodhana Churna or celebrated Dentifrice.

The regular use of this powder is sure to cure all diseases of the gums, cures ulceration, prevents bleeding, sweetens the breath, perfectly cleanses the teeth of tartar and all other noxious matters and renders them pearl white.

Price per Box 8 *Annas. Postage &c.*, 8 *Annas*
4 Boxes can be sent by the above postage.
C. K. SEN. & Co. 's

CURE FOR HYDROCELE.

If the disease be of one years standing, the use of one box only of this medicine is sure to cure. If it be of long standing, the regular use of the medicines for a longer period will cure 90 cases out of 100, and it is warranted to remove all complications such as fever, debility &c. however long they may have existed. It also restores the virile powers which have been lost on account of the malady.

Price per box Rs. 2, postage & 8 annas.
4 Boxes can be sent by the above postage.
C. K. SEN. & CO.'S

Kuntalabrishya or World-famed Hair Restorer.

The regular use of this invaluable oil most certainly cures baldness and prevents the hair from falling off or turning prematurely grey. It cures diseases of the head and brain and strengthens weak and failing eyesight. It possesses a very sweet odour.

Price per Bottle Re. 1. *Postage &c.*, 10 *As.*
2 Bottles can be sent by the above postage.
C. K. SEN & CO. 'S

Superior & Genuine Makaradhwaja.

This is one of the most potent medicines of the Hindu Pharmacopœa, never fails to produce the most satisfactory results in cases of debility from whatever cause arising seminal, constitutional or otherwise. It acts like a charm in typhus or typhoid fevers, chronic diarrhœa, habitual, constipation, gleat, gonorrhœa, spermatorrhœa, female complaints after delivery, weakness of the brain from excessive mental labor, and in all complaints to which the persons of sedentary habits are especially subject.

Price 7 grains per Rupee or Rs. 24 per Tolah.
Postage 4 *As.*

All the above preparations are perfectly innocuous and may be taken by persons of all sexes and ages with perfect safety.

BINOD LAL SEN, KOBIRAJ,
Manager.

NOTICE.

LOST OR STOLEN FROM THE RESIDENCE OF BABU CALLYKISSEN TAGORE, PATHOOREAGHATTA.

Four solid Silver side dishes.

Any one giving information that will lead to the recovery of the above property will receive a Reward of Rs. 200: or Rs. 1000 for the above information with such proofs as will lead to the conviction of the offender.

DR. S. L. MULLICK'S CURATIVE TINCTURE,

OR SPECIFIC FOR CHOLERA.

Specific in Cholera and other Spasmodic bowel complaints.
Price 1 oz. bottle ... Re. 1-4 Cash
„ ½ oz. „ ... 0-12 Cash.
Postage and Packing charge 4 (four annas) for Moffusil on each bottle. To be had at People's Medical Hall No. 31, Rutton Sircar's Garden Street, Calcutta.

THE ORIGINAL HARDWARE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDIA.

T. E. THOMSON & CO.,

HARDWARE MERCHANTS.

9, ESPLANADE ROW, CALCUTTA.

IMPORTERS OF

Steam Ploughs, Horse Ploughs &c., &c., &c.

STEAM CULTIVATING TACKLE WITH STEVEN'S PATENT PLOUGH & CULTIVATOR.

FOUR FURROWS, WITH

1 Dozen Extra Ploughshares,	2 Dozen Extra Shares R. S. 3
2 Extra Tines for Cultivator.	1 „ „ „ R. S. 4
1 Dozen Extra Shares S. 2	1 „ „ „ R. S. 4
1 „ „ „ S. 3	2 Extra Screws with Collars for raising the main wheel.

Extra Draft Hooks, Bolts, Keys, and Pinions, and 8 Extra Iron Coulters for heavy lands.

HOWARD'S PATENT DOUBLE-BREAST OR RIDGING PLOUGHS.

These Ploughs are intended for moulding up or forming ridges for turnips, mangolds, and potatoes. The breasts are fitted in a neat and simple manner: they can be readily expanded or contracted to any required width, and this independently of each other. By simply removing the breasts, which can be done instantly, and attaching the hoes shewn in the annexed engraving, these implements can be used as horse hoes ... ... Rs. 90

PLOUGHS FOR SMALL BULLOCKS OR PONIES.

Howard's Patent Iron Dwarf Plough, with one Wheel Marked D' each ... ... Rs. 47-8

This Plough is intended to be worked by a small horse or bullock. It is adapted for light land, for stirring loose soil, and for any kind of shallow ploughing where the draught is easy.

The average weight of the above Plough is 1¼ cwt.

Howard's Patent Turnerest Plough, with one Wheel each ... ... Rs. 37-8

The above Plough is the most useful made for very hard, rooty, or stony ground, being very strong and reversible.

Howard's Expanding Horse Hoe, each ... ... Rs. 70

This Implement is intended for one row of turnips, potatoes, or beans, or for three rows of wheat, barley, &c. The hoes are made to suit the different widths of the rows, and are so arranged that the frame never projects beyond the outside hoes. The advantage of this arrangement is very great when hoeing highstanding crops.

It is fitted with an expanding harrow, which works behind the implement and brings the weeds to the surface.

The average weight of the above is 1¼ cwt.

Whitehead's Patent Horse Hoes, each ... ... Rs. 55
Carsen's Patent Expanding Horse Hoes, each ... „ 60

Ten per cent. discount off the above prices for Cash.

JUST PUBLISHED.

কিণ্ডপেট্টা কাব্য।

শ্রীনবীনচন্দ্র সেন প্রণীত।

Price 8 As. Postage 1 anna.

টীকা ও নজির সহ

দেওয়ানি কার্য্য বিধি।

অর্থাৎ

১৮৭৭ সালের ১০ আইন

মুরাদ নগরের মুন্সেপ

শ্রীদ্বারকানাথ ভট্টাচার্য্য এম. এ. বি. এল. প্রণীত।

মূল্য ৩ টাকা। ডাকমাশুল ।০ আনা।

To be had at the Canning Library, Calcutta.

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND LADIES' ASSOCIATION

Having been removed to 125 Bow Bazar opposite the Government School of Art. Miss Pigot is prepared to receive pupils on the following terms.

Parlour Boarders taught privately	Rs.	40	0	0
Do. in the upper Christian School	„	30	0	0
Boarders in upper Christian School.....	„	12	0	0
Do. Orphanage and Normal School.....	„	5	0	0

The fees for Zenana visitation may be learnt on application to Miss Pigot at any hour on Saturday or after 5 P.M. on other days.

The "Ellora" with return emigrants from Trinidad, is expected to arrive at the Port of Calcutta early in March. Part of the return emigrants' savings amounting to Rs. 78,992-1-0 has been remitted in Government Bills. Published for the information of relatives and whom it may concern.

ROBERT M. S. MITCHELL,
Govt. Emigration Agent for Trinidad.

FOR SALE.

Transactions of the Bethune Society containing lectures delivered at the Society's Meetings, 400 pages, cloth-bound. Price 1 Re. each. Apply at 9 Ram Tunoo Bose's Lane.

BATHGATE & CO.

HAVE IN STOCK LARGE SUPPLIES OF THE FOLLOWING

Dr. Bright's Phosphodyne.

"This medicine, after repeated trials, has obtained the approbation of the entire faculty."

The beneficial effects of the Phosphodyne are frequently shown from the first day of its administration by a remarkable increase of nervous power, with a feeling of vigour and comfort to which the patient has long been unaccustomed.

Price, per case, Rs. 6-8 cash ; 8 credit.

Old Dr. Jacob Townsend's Sarsaparilla.

Price, per bottle, Rs. 2-8 cash ; Rs. 3 credit.

Bristol's American Sarsaparilla.

In Monster Bottle, Rs. 2-12 cash ; Rs. 3 credit.

Dr. King's Dandelion and Quinine Pills.

Well suited to the Indian climate.

Price, per bottle, Re. 1-4 cash : Re. 1-8 credit.

Bathgate & Co.'s Pepsine Wine,

A preparation containing all the properties of Pepsine in an agreeable and convenient form, which will be found of great benefit in cases of impaired digestion, to which many other ailments are attributable.

Price, per bottle, Rs. 2-8 and Rs. 4-8 each cash ; Rs. 3 and Rs. 5 each credit.

Bathgate & Co's Cholera Elixir.

This important remedy combines in a concentrated form the medicinal agents which have proved most efficacious in arresting the rapid progress of this fatal malady, and combating it when developed. Containing no stupefying agents, it may be safely administered by the most inexperienced by following the directions which accompany each bottle.

Price, Rs. 3-8 and 6 per bottle.

B. & Co.'s Ringworm Specific

Is the most successful preparation for the cure of Indian Ringworm ever introduced.

In bottles, Re. 1-8 and Rs. 3 each.

Bathgate & Co.'s Golden Podophyllin Pills.

Will be found a most efficacious remedy for derangements of the digestive organs, and for obstructions and torpid action of the liver and bowels which produce INDIGESTION and the several varieties of BILIOUS and Liver complaints incidental to residence in India.

Price, Re. 1 per bottle.

BATHGATE & Co.
CALCUTTA.

No More Pains!!!

THE

INFALLIBLE PAIN-CURER.

Warranted to cure pains of every description, arising from whatever cause, on any part of the human frame. A certain cure for Pains in the Back, Lumbago, Pains in the Chest, Sore Throats, Coughs, Colds, Tightness of the Chest, Colics, Rheumatism, Paralysis, Pains in the Groins, Contracted Joints, Gout, Swellings, Old Sores, Piles, Ringworm, and Eruptions on the Skin.

Pains of every description have been cured by the outward application only of this medicine, when all the skill of the medical art has been tried without effect.

Per bottle, Re. 1 ; packing and postage, As. 8.

DARLINGTON & Co., 49, Dhurrumtollah Street, Calcutta.

☞ See that you get the INFALLIBLE PAIN-CURER with the name of Darlington & Co. on it.

Now ready.

New Civil Procedure Code & other Acts.

Mofussil Small Cause Courts Act, General Stamp Act, Evidence Act, Court Fees Act, Contract Act, Specific Relief Act, Registration Act, Limitation Act, Carriers Act, Oaths Act, Majority Act, Royal Charter Act, Letters Patent constituting the High Courts of Bengal, Madras, Bombay, and the N. W. Provinces, Speech of Sir Arthur Hobhouse on the passing of the New Code of Civil Procedure, amendments up to date. To each Act a special Index. Per Copy Rs. 6, Packing and postage Re. 1.

DARLINGTON & CO.,
49, Dhurrumtollah-Street, Calcutta.

Now ready. New Civil Procedure Code.

WITH SYNOPSYS AND A MOST ELABORATE INDEX.

Per Copy Rs. 3, Postage annas 4.

DARLINGTON & Co., 49, *Dhurrumtollah Street, Calcutta.*

THE

CALCUTTA MAGAZINE.

A journal of Literature, Politics, Science, and the Arts. Embracing topics of the Day, Sketches of Eastern Life. Biographical and Historical Notes, Essays, Miscellaneous Notices, Poetry, and Serial Tales, &c., &c. The whole combining useful information and instruction with amusement and recreation. Edited by Owen Aratoon.

Yearly subscription ... ... Rs. 12.

DARLINGTON & Co. 49 Dhurrumtollah Street, Calcutta.

The Press unanimously recommend it as the best Magazine for our Indian Homes. Specimen copies forwarded any where on receipt of 32 half anna postage stamps.

Now ready Parts 1. and two 8 ans. per Part, Postage 1 anna

Cyclopædia of Anglo-Indian Literature.

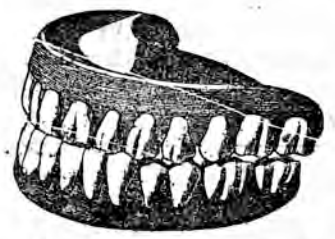
Edited by Owen Aratoon.

DARLINGTON & Co., 49 Dhurrumtollah Street, Calcutta.

The first two parts contain notices of John Brothwick Gilchrist, L. L. D., John Bruce, Dr. Francis Buchanan, Sir William Jones, Dr. William Carey, Felix Carey, Joshua Marshman, Andoniram Judson, Lieut. Colonel James Tod, RAJAH RAM MOHUN ROY, William Ward. St. Francis Xavier, Francis Bernier, Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, Constantius Joseph Beschi, Revd. William Yates and Thomas Coryat.

J. CORFIELD & Co.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH.



Messrs. Corfield & Co., invite attention to the following letter which they have recently received from a native gentleman of Rank.

"MESSRS. CORFIELD & CO.
Surgeon Dentists, Calcutta."

DEAR SIR,

"I have derived so much benefit from the artificial teeth you made for me that I feel I must in gratitude write to thank you for all you have done for me.

For many years I have been without a tooth in my head having lost all after a very severe illness at a comparatively early age. For many years I have been unable to chew the pan so much used by natives ; and this has caused much distress and sorrow. Fortunately I was recommended to place myself in your hands to have new mineral teeth supplied. I can now not only chew any pan but I can also eat every kind of food. My health is therefore much improved and I feel like another man. As there must be many Hindoos who suffer as I did from loss of teeth and who do not know how to remedy that loss, you may print this letter in the newspapers (without my name) for guidance of others. Yours truly,

N. C. R.

Pure mineral teeth supplied on Gold, Silver and Vulcunite Plates at the cheapest price.

J. CORFIELD & CO.
10 *and* 11 *Esplanade. Calcutta.*
BRANCH ESTABLISHMENT,
11, *Canning Road Allahabad*

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1809.

Incorporated by Royal Charter and Special Acts of Parliament.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL—TWO MILLIONS.

Paid-up Capital—Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds.

President:

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ROXBURGH, K.T.

Vice Presidents:

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF SUTHERLAND, K.G.
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ABERCORN, K.G.

Chairman of the General Court of Directors:

LORD LAWRENCE, G.C.B.

Life Department.

INDIAN BRANCH.

Local Board of Directors

L. P. D. BROUGHTON, ESQ., Administrator-General.
R. A. LYALL, ESQ., (Lyall, Rennie & Co.), Merchant.
E. T. ROBERTS, ESQ., Solicitor.
ROBERT STEEL, ESQ., Merchant.
MEDICAL OFFICER:—DR. C. PALMER.

Important Reduction of the Rates for Life Assurance in India, China, Ceylon, &c.

EXAMPLES.

New Table of Rates for Civilians payable during the whole term of Life for an Assurance of Rs. 1,000 payable at death.

Comparative Statement of Rates of Different Offices.

YEARLY AT AGE 20.

	Rs.	As.	P.
The new rates of the N. B. & M. Insurance Co.	25	6	0
The old rates ditto ditto... ...	30	12	0
The Standard	28	9	4
The Universal	29	0	0
The City of Glasgow	31	8	0
The Church of England... ...	30	0	0
The Royal	30	0	0
The Alliance	31	10	0
The Indian Life Assurance Company...	28	5	4

General Agents for the whole of India in the Life Department.

CHAUNTRELL, KNOWLES, AND ROBERTS,
SOLICITORS,
No. 1, *Hastings Street, Calcutta.*

HAMILTON & CO.,

JEWELLERS AND SILVERSMITHS, CALCUTTA.

Beg to draw the attention of the various Educational Departments of Government, and of all Donors of Prizes to **Colleges and Schools.** to their large and varied stock of

SILVER MEDALS.

Suitable for presentation to Students and successful Prize-winners.

We would mention that the Designs & ornamentation in these Medals are not engraved, but are raised in high relief, which produces a much handsomer effect.

The prices quoted are for Medals and cases only. Any engraving or inscription which may be ordered to be cut upon them will be subject to a further charge, varying according to the cost of production.

The "Star and Crown" Medal Rs. 16

Back left quite plain for engraving.

The "Temple of Fame" Medal,	1¾	inches	Rs. 22
The "Triumph of Industry" Medal,	1¼	"	" 16
The "Laurel Wreath" Medal,	1¼	"	" 14

Plain Silver Medals, 1¼ inches diameter Rs. 11 in case.
" " " 1½ " " 15 "
Silver Medals with wreath on each side, 1¾ inches diameter Rs. 20

Each complete in morocco case.

Gold Medals we make to order, at prices ranging from Rs. 50 to 200.

HAMILTON & Co.
WATCH AND CLOCK MAKERS,
Calcutta.

SPECIFIC FOR DYSMENORRHŒA

OR

PAINFUL MENSTRUATION (বাধক বেদনা)

A single administration during menses generally cures the disease and brings on conception."

For particulars apply to Dr. Bhoobun Mohun Sircar, No. 77, Mooktaram Baboo's Street, Chore Bagan, Calcutta.—**Price Rs. 3-8,**

Sole Agents. B. M. SIRCAR. & Co.

JUST RECEIVED FROM LONDON
PER S. S. "VIKING"

AT THE

Metropolitan Homœopathic Dispensary,

12, *College Square (north), Calcutta.*

A fresh supply of Homœopathic Medicines, Books, Drop-Tubes, Drop-conductors, Clinical Thermometers, Percelain Medicine-cups, spoons and other Homœopathic requisites which are being sold at a moderate price. Terms cash.

R. K. GHOSH,
Homœopathic Practitioner.

NOTICE.

G. Haase, M.D., oculist at No. 8, Chouranghee Lane, from 9½ to 10½ A. M., and from 3 to 5 P. M. For the indigent at No. 11, Esplanade Row from 7½ to 9 A. M.

THE HINDOO PATRIOT.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

All Subscriptions payable in advance, and none for less than one month.

IN TOWN.

Per Month	1	2
" Annum	11	8
" Single Copy	0	3

IN MOFUSSIL.

In Advance per Annum	13
Arrear Do.	12

RATES OF ADVERTISEMENT.	Rs.	As.
Per line	0	4

Printed and published by WOOMESH CHUNDER NUNDI, *at the* HINDOO PATRIOT PRESS, No 108, BARANUSY GHOSE'S STREET, CALCUTTA.

SUPPLEMENT TO

THE HINDOO PATRIOT.

CALCUTTA :—MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 1878.

BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

A General Meeting of the British Indian Association was held at the Hall of the Association on Thursday the 26th December 1877 *at* 3-30 *p. m.*

Rajah Degumber Mitter, C.S.I., Senior Vice-President, in the chair.

The report of the Committee was read.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

THE Committee beg leave to submit a report of their operations since their last report. They will first notice their representations regarding legislative measures.

CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE.

This important measure occupied considerable portion of the Committee's time. In their last annual report the Committee adverted to the Civil Procedure Bill and the general meeting held on the subject. In the memorial which the Committee submitted to his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council they remarked that the Bill so far as it sought to consolidate and embody in a single enactment the different laws, which regulated the procedure of the Courts in the trial of civil suits, it was a decided improvement on the existing laws on the subject, but there are points in it which were open to serious objections.

The Committee commented on the provisions for the service of summons and processes, the verification of plaints, *exparte* decrees, service of notice for the same, service of interrogatories on pleaders, and suggested some modifications.

Referring to the provision for the award of interest by Courts for money borrowed and repayment of the capital, the Committee submitted that the restrictions proposed in the Bill on the rate of interest and repayment of capital borrowed would have the unpleasant effect of deterring capitalists from lending money except on the most oppressive terms, and compelling traders, merchants and all needy persons who might be in want of money, to part with their property in order to raise the necessary capital at a great sacrifice, where they might have satisfied their wants by borrow ing ; they would also by hampering monetary transactions withdraw from the market much capital. If the clause about payment by instalments were made applicable to rent-suits it would destroy a powerful incentive in the ryot to pay up his just debts. The measure would revive the usury laws by a side-wind and would be a retrograde step, fraught with the most mischievous effects, and as a last consequence it would increase the difficulties in the recovery of money advanced on the security of landed property and keep the rate of interest high. Referring to the provision in Section 211 that measne profits shall not be allowed for more than a year from the day of the institution of the suit, the Committee urged that the section should be omitted, as it was always optional with the decree-holder to execute the decree with expedition, there being the contingency of an appeal and the decree being set aside by the appellate court. They also suggested that the minimum rate of interest after date of decree might be fixed at 12 per cent. per annum. As to the sections relating to the execution of decrees, they pointed out that great injustice would be done, if any of the new provisions were made applicable to transactions made and contracts entered into before the passing of the Bill, and therefore they represented that in case the provisions in question be passed into law, they might not have retrospective effect. The Bill prescribed restrictions on the recovery of costs of applications for execution of decrese. The Committee observed that it was always the interest of the decree-holder to get complete satisfaction of the decree as soon as possible, and that if he had to make repeated applications for the execution of the decree it was no fault of his. To prevent delay in execution of decrees it should be provided that the award of costs incurred in applications other than the first in the execution of decree should be given at the discretion of the Court. With regard to the partial abolition of imprisonment for debt the Committee pointed out that it would encourage ryots to withhold payment of rent. The distraint of crops for rent applied to the current year's rent only. But even this provision was of limited application, as in case of joint undivided property it was non-effective. The effect of the provision in question would be that in good years the ryots would pay their rent for those years only and in bad years they would enjoy the surplus proceeds of the good years, regardless of the claims of the landholder. As regards the exemption of salaries from attachment, it might have a contrary effort, as in stress for money the impecunuous officers might have recourse to more objectionable shifts than *bona fide* loans.

Exception was taken to the provision for the sale of property by the District Court in execution of a decree passed by a subordinate court on the ground that such a provision would not only cast an unmerited slur upon the subordinate courts, but would prove detrimental to the interests of both the judgment debtor and the decree-holder. The small properties would particularly suffer by sale at the sudder station, as bidders might not like to go to a distance. The District Court would not have sufficient time to attend to applications relating to these properties, and might not be in a position to use its discretion in disposing of the applications.

The Committee then pointed out the vagueness in the sections providing for execution of sales, it being not clear whether the property itself or the right, title and interest of the judgment debtor in the property was to be sold. The section declaring the rights and interests of an auction purchaser, it was also shown, was open to objection on the ground of its eventually proving a fruitful source of litigation inasmuch as the purchase was to take effect from the date of attachment instead of from the date of sale. The Bill gave power to local Governments to declare, with the sanction of the Supreme Government, that the execution of a decree in some cases in whatever form ordered shall be transferred to the Collector. The Committee urged that there was no reason for vesting the executive with the power of interfering with the execution of decrees for the sale of immoveable property. Not to say that the course would be unconstitutional, it would fetter the advance of money on immoveable property, by imposing restrictions which would practically obstruct the usual course of business. With regard to the provisions putting restrictions on the sale of landed properties in execution of decrees and allowing repayments of loans by instalments with or without interest spread over twenty years or more, the Committee observed that the operation of these provisions would be most prejudicial to the employment of capital by advance of money upon landed property, and the debtor would not fare better than the capitalist, for the management of his estate by the Collector would likely be more expensive. These provisions would further aggravate the difficulties of persons in want of money who instead of finding loans on ordinary mortgage of their properties would be compelled to sell them absolutely or conditionally, and the capitalist would be justified in adopting this precaution of a sale in order to avoid the ruinous process of the law under comment.

The Committee also remostrated against the provision that suits against Government should not be entertained by the subordinate Courts without the order of the District Court. This provision introduced an invidious distinction between Government and private individuals which was repugnant to the spirit of British legislation, not to say that it implied an unmerited distrust in the Subordinate Courts.

Regarding the Section providing that on a judgment debtor being arrested and brought before the Court it shall advise him to apply for the insolvency clauses of the Bill, it was urged that such a provision would have the effect of divesting imprisonment for debt of its salutary dread which induced debtors to pay their debts or make settlements with their creditors.

The Bill passed into law with several modifications on the points noticed in the memorial. The Collector clauses were considerably modified, the present jurisdiction of the Munsifs in Government suits was retained, imprisonment for debt was continued, and several other alterations were made.

CESS LEGISLATION.

1. APPLICATION TO BE HEARD BY COUNSEL.—In pursuance of the scheme propounded by the Finance Minister in the Council of his Excellency the Governor-General that each Province shall be responsible for meeting the charges incurred in works of Local and Provincial utility, and that such charges shall no longer fall upon the Imperial Revenues, a Bill was introduced into the Council of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for levying a cess upon land in order to enable the Local Government to raise from this province a sum of about Rs. 27,50,000. As the subject was of most vital importance to the landed class, the Committee applied to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to be heard by Counsel in accordance with the precedent followed in the case of the Calcutta Municipal Bill of 1876.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT.—The Government in reply said that the Council of the Lieutenant Governor had no power or authority to hear Counsel. If the Select Committee on the Calcutta Municipal Bill had heard the delegate of the Association in 1876, they probably had done so in forgetfulness of the prohibitory rule. And if it were otherwise, His Honor said, he would not have thought it necessary to ask the Council to hear the Association by Counsel on the subject of the Provincial Public Works Cess Bill, because in respect to the incidence of taxation the Bill was in every particular identical with the District Road Cess Act. The allegation that there was a difference between the Road Cess Act and the Provincial Cess Bill inasmuch as the former provided that the money raised under it was to be spent locally, did not bear on the particular principle of the Bill to which exception was taken. The local character of the expenditure was never assigned as a reason why such taxes were held to be leviable consistently with the permanent settlement ; it was simply urged why such taxation might be more readily received by the people than any scheme of taxation for general purposes. Much stress was laid on an opinion of Sir Barnes Peacock as establishing the non-liability of owners of permanently-settled estates to any further rates and taxes. But Sir Barnes' minute related to a proposal to increase the assessment of estates in order to place upon landholders, as a class, the cost of the village police. All that he urged, he explained subsequently, was that the Government had bound itself not to raise the jumma of the proprietors of permanently-settled estates as a separate and independent body. All that the permanent settlement proposed to do was to reduce to a certainty one particular charge on the land which had previously been of variable amount ; it had further conferred upon the zemindars permanent proprietory rights. His Honor further hinted that if the plea of breach of the covenant of the permanent settlement was lightly and too often brought forward it might put arguments into the mouths of the enemies of the settlement, who might question the binding nature of the covenant. The covenant had two parts, and while one relieved the owners of estates from periodical increase of their land valuation, the other imposed certain distinct obligations which were shifted from Government to the landholders in consideration of this concession. The Lieutenant Governor assured the Association that it was exceedingly distasteful to him to have to impose fresh taxes upon any classes of the people of the Lower Provinces, but he had been directed by the Government of India to relieve the Imperial Government of certain heavy charges which that Government could no longer meet without some further taxation in some form or other, and it was his duty to give effect loyally to the instructions which he had received.

MEMORIAL TO THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.—After the receipt of the above reply the Committee submitted a memorial to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council praying that the Public Works Cess Bill might not be passed into law. They urged that the proposed tax was one-sided and fell heavily on one province, that when the whole community was interested in the works for which the cess was required it was a violation of the first principle of impartial taxation to levy it from the landed classes alone. On the other hand the imposition of this fresh burden upon the land involved a direct breach of the Permanent Settlement. As to the argument that the question had been set at rest when the Road Cess Act was passed, the Committee urged that there was no fair analogy between the Road Cess and the proposed Cess. The covenant of the Permanent Settlement expressly stipulated that no demand would ever be made upon the landholders or their heirs and successors by the then or any future Government, for an augmentation of the public assessment in consequence of the improvement of their respective estates, that the public demand was fixed for ever. But these cesses were calculated and assessed on the rental of the land all tending to reduce the assets of the permanently settled estates, and to deprive the proprietors of

the " fruits of their own good management," which they had been assured " they would enjoy exclusively." As for the Road Cess the Secretary of State had argued that every thing as to the policy and even the justice of the Cess in question, turned upon the manner in which it was to be applied. It was essential that the people should be satisfied that the Government was breaking no faith in any measure it might take ; and in order to make this conclusion plain to their apprehension, it was above all things requisite that the benefits to be derived from the cess should be brought home to their doors—that these benefits should be palpable, direct, and immediate. As for the construction of the covenant of the Permanent Settlement the Committee referred to the opinions expressed by such eminent members of the Indian Council as Sir Erskine Perry, Sir F. Halliday Sir F. Currie and others, who were thoroughly conversant with the subject. These members of the Indian Council were unanimous in their disapproval of the despatch of the Secretary of State on the Road Cess Act, and held that such an imposition would be a direct violation of British faith. As to the opinion of Sir Barnes Peacock alluded to in the reply of Government, the Committee observed that Sir Barnes wrote against the Rural Cess or Police tax, which was to have been a special and separate tax upon the land, and that the proposed Public Works Cess was of the same character and not a liability in common with others to taxation of a general character. Reference had been made to the speech of Sir James Fitz-James Stephen in the Governor General's Council in 1871, but the Committee remarked that they did not deny the common liability of all property to taxation for the exigencies of the State. They however submitted that a tax on rent would fall wholly on the landlord that the proposed Cess was consequently an increase of the public demand upon the land, and necessarily involved a breach of the Permanent Settlement. With regard to the remark that the Permanent Settlement had been the chief cause of the rapid growth of the wealth and prosperity in the Lower Provinces, the Committee contended that that fact did not establish the reasonableness of taxing the landed class alone. The landlords did not deny their obligation to contribute to the necessities of the State ; they complained because land had been singled out for taxation. What was said about the plea of breach of the covenant of the Permanent Settlement, if lightly and too often brought forward, putting arguments into the mouths of the enemies of that settlement adverse to it, the Committee quoted historical testimony to show how the settlement had benefited the State and the people. If thinkers of the class referred to, the Committee continued, ignored history, fact, truth and justice, there was no hope of convincing them. While the land revenue was fixed under the Permanent Settlement, the yield of the indirect taxes in Bengal had been much greater than in any other province. Referring to the question of the binding character of the settlement the Committee appealed to the opinion of Sir James FitzJames Stephen who held that it could not be set aside unless the other party to the contract concurred in the advisability of its repeal. As to the obligation of the proprietors of the land to construct and maintain embankments and excavate wells and tanks, the Committee submitted that the landholders never repudiated their obligation or neglected to fulfil it, where it did really exist. But the duty of constructing and maintaining embankments was under the Permanent Settlement Regulations divided between the Government and the zemindars as was clear from the preamble to Regulation XXXIII of 1793. The covenant so far as the works of public utility were concerned was binding upon both sides and both parties regularly discharged the obligations imposed upon them. The obligation of the landlords was increased by Act XXXII of 1855, and it was made the basis of the Embankment Cess under B. C. Act of 1873. It was however urged that the authors of the Permanent Settlement never for a moment contemplated that the heavy cost of expensive irrigation works originally designed from motives of commercial profits should be borne by the landowners. That the Permanent Settlement had answered the expectations of its framers in being instrumental in protecting the crops and guarding against occurrence of scarcity and famines will be evident from the fact that famines which were of frequent occurrence anterior to the Settlement had almost disappeared since the settlement. The Committee next remarked that it was on the faith of the inviolability of the Permanent Settlement that proprietors had laid out large sums of money on the reclamation and improvement of their estates, and capitalists had invested their capital in the purchase of estates at high rates, and they could not but feel deeply aggrieved by the increase of public demand upon the land by the imposition of new taxes. Of the two contracting parties to the Permanent Settlement the Government or the powerful partner is now the arbiter and judge, that circumstance greatly enhances the responsibility of Government in construing the true character of the covenant. As for the contention that this cess was recommended by the circumstance that it would fall upon the classes who benefitted most by irrigation and railways, and who were free as a rule from Municipal taxation, the Committee urged that all classes of the community participated in the benefits of these works, and that the landed class was not free from Municipal taxation. Whether in first class towns or in rural towns the land was the sole subject of taxation, and as most of those who held land in towns also held land outside the towns they were amenable to municipal taxation. The Committee suggested that if additional taxation was absolutely necessary such a form of taxation should be devised as would by equally distributing the burden according to the means of the payers leave no room for invidious class distinction and necessarily class dissatisfaction. In conclusion the Committee submitted that the time allowed by the Council to the public for the consideration of the measure was too short, and that people in the interior had scanty opportunity to make known their views and sentiments in respect of it. They prayed that sufficient time be allowed to the public for the consideration of the measure, and that in the meantime the Bill be not passed into law.

Reply of Government to the Memorial.—The Government of Bengal in reply to the memorial of the committee observed that not a single argument had been brought forward in the memorial which had not been urged in respect to the Income Tax or the Road Cess Act. These arguments had been set aside by the Secretary of State, and even if the Lieutenant Governor did not concur in the sufficiency of the reasons by which that decision had been supported, it would still have been incumbent upon him to accept it as final, and to be guided by it in all future legislation. It was not open to him to discuss the propriety or the legality of the system of raising cesses on all persons having an interest in lands and houses, because that is a matter which, as far as the Government of Bengal was concerned, had been conclusively determined. The finality of the decision of the Secretary of State was inferred from the words of the despatch referred to, of 12th May 1870 and in paragraph 11 of the same despatch the principle by which the Government was to be guided was defined. The Government reiterated the view it had before expressed that the Permanent Settlement was not a final determination of all rates and taxes upon all persons and classes making a profit from the land, but it was only a final and perpetual fixation of the relative shares of Government and the zemindars in the produce of the land. The question of the liability of the zemindars in common with others interested in land to pay rates and taxes was a question left quite open at the time of the permanent settlement. No idea about the future exigencies of the empire was in the mind of Lord Cornwallis when he proposed the Permanent Settlement, and therefore the question of the liability of zemindars to pay rates and taxes was never settled one way or another. The Lieutenant Governor could not agree with the Association in holding that the Road Cess was an addition to the public demand upon the land which had been fixed for ever. Every tax imposed upon a person paying land revenue must obviously so far have been payment to the State in addition to his jumma. The opinions quoted in support of the view that the zemindars were exempted from future taxation by the permanent settlement referred to a different state of things to that which was now under consideration. They were all directed against the imposition of increased assessment upon the zemindars only. With regard to the local application of taxes raised in any particular province, the Government observed that it was impossible to localise the entire cost of such great works as local cheap railways and the maintenance of large works of local irrigation within the small focus of a single district, and it had therefore been determined to make the province, and not the district the unit of localisation. The words of John Stuart Mill quoted in the Association's memorial might hold good in a state of things under which a landlord had an absolute right in rack-renting all his land, and in a country where rents were determined by competition only, but they had a very limited application in Bengal, where the right to receive rent was determined by very different considerations. In reference to the works of public utility in the shape of wells and tanks executed by the zemindars and alluded to in the memorial, the Lieutenant Governor was not aware of any works of irrigation constructed by zemindars in Bengal on such a scale as would justify the inference drawn. The figures given in the memorial did not justify the conclusions in respect to the proportionate incidence of indirect taxation in Bengal as compared with other provinces. The comparison of the receipts of a large provision with those of a small province proved absolutely nothing, unless the comparison was extended to a calculation of area and population. As to the assertion that Bengal was overtaxed for the benefit of other provinces and the inference that the charges for local improvements in Bengal should be paid for from imperial revenue, the figures quoted did not show that it was well-founded.

After a careful consideration of all that had been urged in the subject the Lieutenant-Governor was compelled to decline to accede to the request of refraining from passing into law the Bill complained against, and for the reason that it was based on the assertion that the proposed cess is an augmentation of the public assessment on revenue-paying estates only, while the principles laid down for his guidance showed, that it was no infringement of the Permanent Settlement, direct or indirect. With regard to the form of taxation suggested in the memorial, the Lieutenant Governor had sought the advice of men of every class and interest, and no mode of taxation had been hinted at, which would meet the definition given in the memorial, nor was his Honor able to think of any possible tax which would cause no class dissatisfaction.

Appeal to the Viceroy and Governor General in Council.—After the receipt of the above reply the Committee submitted an appeal to His Excellency the Viceroy. They stated at the outset that they would not repeat the arguments already set forth in their correspondence with the Bengal Government, observing that they naturally felt diffident in carrying on a controversy on a question which the local Representative of Her Imperial Majesty held had been closed by Her Majesty's Government. But the peculiar position they occupied in respect of the vast population interested in land in these provinces was their excuse for the intrusion. The Committee remarked in addition to what they had urged in their previous memorials, that from the statements of eminent authorities and the exposition of the principle of the permanent settlement made by them it would seem that the right of empire and sovereignty was in the Government, not the proprietory right. The interference of Government with that right did not negative its existence; the soil belonged to the subject, the *khiraj* to the state. The net product of agricultural labor in these provinces was divided between the Government, the owner, and the ryot. All the gains that the cultivator made over to the owner constituted rent and therefore what the owner paid to Government was clearly a deduction from rent. Hence the Jumma was a tax upon rent, and any new demand upon the landowner of a further portion of what he received from his tenant could not but be an increase of that tax, in other words, an increase of the *jumma*. The property in the land being vested in the landlord any addition to the land-tax from whomsoever levied was necessarily an infraction of the covenant of the Permanent Settlement. With regard to the second point in the Lieutenant Governor's reply that the arguments against the Public Works Cess had been advanced against the Road Cess and set aside by the Secretary of State, the Committee submitted that the manner of the assessment and administration of the Road Cess was made the chief argument by the Secretary of State in favor of that cess. The question of the abstract right of Government to tax further the land as such was involved in the first point, and the Secretary of State held that apart from that question the purposes to which the Road Cess would be applicable were a sufficient justification for it—the benefits to the cess-payers " being immediate, direct, and palpable." There was thus no fair analogy between the Public Works Cess and the Road Cess, and therefore the decision arrived at in respect of the latter could not justly affect the action of Government in respect of the former.

In the third place the Lieutenant Governor was of opinion that the irrigation works and State Railways were works of local utility, and that the charge for them ought to be borne by the provincial Fund. The Committee pointed out that the Finance Minister in his Budget Statement had admitteed that it was difficult to draw a line of distinction in cases of the kind to be covered by the proposed cess, which were of local utility and general usefulness, for works which might be locally useful also benefited the empire. Such being the case it could not be just that the province in which they were situate should be regarded as an unit for purposes of taxation to meet deficiency of revenue for their maintenance, and not the whole empire. If the irrigation canals were unremunerative in Bengal many of the canals of Northern India and Madras had proved equally unremunerative for many years after their construction, and surely it would not be right or just, the Committee urged, that in contravention of the principles hitherto followed, Bengal should be subjected to special taxation to make good the loss sustained on account of the canals constructed within its territorial limits. In the other provinces the Imperial Government either guaranteed or directly maintained

local Railways, but in Bengal the Government proposed to vary the principle. If the empire was considered an unit for the maintenance of works of this kind in the other provinces, it was meet that the same principle should be adopted in respect of Bengal.

With regard to the financial position of Bengal compared with that of other provinces the reply of the Government of Bengal excluded receipts from three prolific sources such as salt, customs, and Opium, which together yielded in Bengal about seven crores of rupees. From the words of the Lieutenant-Governor it might be inferred as if the memorial of the Committee had prayed for reduction of taxation in Bengal, because it yielded more than the other provinces. What the memorial of the Association had urged was that as the local surplus of Bengal after defraying all cost of administration was very large, it would not be fair to lay fresh burdens upon Bengal for purposes, which were hitherto considered imperial, but were now declared provincial or local. The Committee observed with sorrow that the Lieutenant-Governor considered a respectful representation of their honest convictions as to the bearing of the Public Works Cess upon the covenant of the Permanent Settlement as an "odious charge" against the Government. They submitted that in making the representation they only availed themselves of the inherent right of the subject to make known his grievances to the sovereign, and they humbly thought that if any act of the sovereign's representative involved a violation of a pledge of the sovereign, the subject would not be true to himself or to his sovereign, if he refrained from bringing his conscientious convictions to the notice of the ruling authority, which was the fountain of justice, and the source of redress of all grievances. The Committee lastly prayed that His Excellency the Viceroy would be graciously pleased to make into consideration the statements and arguments contained in this and their memorials to the Lieutenant-Governor and to withhold his assent to the Provincial Public Works Cess Bill.

Reply of His Excellency the Viceroy.—The Government of India in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce acknowledged the receipt of the memorial and in reply noticed the circumstances under which the Public Works Cess Bill had been introduced into the Council of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. The Bill it was remarked originated in the resolution of the Supreme Government that each province shall be responsible for charges incurred on works of Local and Provincial utility, and that such charges shall no longer fall upon the Imperial Revenues. So as far as Bombay and Madras were concerned this and other financial questions were held in abeyance pending the termination of the famine, which had afflicted those presidencies, and when the Budget Statement for 1877-78 was made it had only been possible to consider the application of the new system to Bengal and the North Western Provinces. In regard to the North Western Provinces the measures proposed by the Government of India and by the Local Government were explained in the Financial Statement and in the Bills which were laid before the Legislative Council of the Governor-General. The same course could not be followed in regard to Bengal because it would have been improper and discourteous to enter on a discussion of a measure in the Imperial Council which would be immediately submitted to the consideration of the Local Legislature. In the Budget Statement therefore allusion was made in general terms to the measures proposed for Bengal. It was however explained by the Financial Member that a sum of about £275,000 would have to be made good annually by Bengal, and that a large portion of this amount must be raised by fresh provincial taxation. Mention was also made at the time that the Supreme Government was in communication with the local Government, and though the new scheme of taxation required to be first sanctioned by the Supreme Government, the actual initiation of the measure must rest with the Lieutenant-Governor. In that statement new and unfamiliar systems of taxation were deprecated and suggestion made to have recourse to existing modes of taxation. Thus the chief and real responsibility of the measure rested with the Government of India. The conclusion was deliberately adopted by the Governor-General in Council in communication with the Local Government that of all the forms of taxation which could be devised for the purpose of raising the necessary funds in Bengal, none was open to so little objection as an extension of the existing Road Cess. In asking the Governor-General to withhold his assent from the Bill the Association was not only asking His Excellency to disapprove a Bill passed in the usual manner by the Lieutenant-Governor and the Bengal Council, but to set aside a decision deliberately adopted by the Government of India. After giving the most careful consideration to the memorial the Governor General inferred that the main contention of the memorial was that the imposition of fresh taxation in the manner proposed by the Bill was an infringement of the conditions of the Permanent Settlement. His Excellency did not think it necessary to state again the views of the Government of India on this subject, because they have been already explained by the Lieutenant Governor with an ability and completeness which left no room for further discussion. Such discussion, it was further observed, was the less necessary, because the arguments which were now brought forward had been urged against the imposition of the Road Cess and the Income Tax and those arguments had been on former occasions most fully and dilberately considered by Her Majesty's Government and by the Government of India, and the discussion was finally closed by Her Majesty's Secretary of State. His Excellency the Viceroy shared the regret expressed by the Lieutenant Governor that the British Indian Association had thought fit again to bring against the Government the charge of deliberately determining to commit a breach of faith with the people of Bengal. With regard to the objection to the statement made by the Lieutenant Governor that the incidence of taxation was lighter in Bengal than in any other part of India, the Government of India observed that with regard to salt the remark in the memorial was incorrect, for the Lieutenant Governor had not only explained the reason why it was left out from his calculation, but had shown that if it were included the general results stated in the reply of the local Government would not be affected. There were obviously no grounds on which the whole of the Customs Revenue collected in Calcutta could be credited to Bengal. In regard to the Opium Revenue not only was none of it paid by the people of Bengal, but the production was notoriously a source of advantage to them. Altogether it was an indisputable fact that no province in the empire, which in proportion to its population and wealth contributed so little to the Public Revenue as Bengal. For these reasons His Excellency the Viceroy was unable to agree to the payer of the memorialists.

Appeal to the Country.—The Committee now thought it their duty to appeal to the land-owners of Bengal generally on the subject. In this view they addressed them a circular informing them of the action taken and the result obtained and the proposal for organizing a united movement on behalf of the landholding class lawfully and constitutionally for the representation of their grievances against the new cess to the Crown and Parliament. The plan of operations which the Committee proposed to adopt was explained. It was firstly to submit petitions from the landholders of different districts in the Bengal Provinces to the Secretary of State; secondly to submit similar petitions to Parliament, thirdly to fortify the position of the memorialist with the opinions of two or more eminent jurists of England and America respectively to be taken on the legal bearings of the Permanent Settlement Regulations; fourthly to publish papers relating to the settlement for the purpose of obtaining opinion of jurists in England and America; fifthly to take Counsel's opinion locally on the question as to whether the Public Works Cess Act under the Permanent Settlement Regulations was *ultra vires*, and involved a breach of the covenant betweer. the state and the landholders; sixthly, to render assistance to any person in view of obtaining a judicial decision upon the legal question set forth above; seventhly, to depute an agent, if possible a native gentleman to England for representation on the subject; lastly to depute agents to the Mofussil to obtain the opinion of zemindars and others on the subject and to raise funds. The Committee have heard from several zemindars on the subject and submitted a case to Counsel for opinion.

Irrigation Bill.—This Bill forms a pendant to the Public Works Cess Bil. It was proposed by this Bill to levy a compulsory rate for the construction and maintenance of irrigation works. In the memorial submitted by the Committee they observed that for the principal food-crops of Bengal there was no demand for steady and continuous irrigation. For certain cold weather and spring crops which required artificial supply of water there already existed adequate provision. Irrigation works were undoubtedly of the greatest use in season of drought, but droughts in Lower Bengal were of rare occurrence. There was a total failure of rains in Bengal Proper in 1769-70 and again in 1873-74 or after more than a hundred years. In Orissa from 1841-42 to 1864-65 there was no drought except in the last mentioned year when there was a general drought. In Behar there was a partial drought in 1865-66 and a more extended drought in 1873-74 So the losses which the ryots would suffer by the imposition of compulsory rate payable every year will scarcely be compensated by their gains in exceptionally bad years of drought occurring at long intervals. With regard to the works which had already been executed or were in progress, such as the Cuttack and Midnapore canals and the Sone canals, experience had shown that they not unfrequently failed when there was want of water and yielded a supply when water was not wanted. For people in Behar there were the wells, tanks and nullahs which supplied their wants, and they might well question the justice of a compulsory irrigation rate for benefits which were not palpable. As means of communication the canals apart from irrigation ought to be supported out of the Road Cess fund under section 66 of Act X. of 1871 B. C. The Committee furthermore urged that the compulsory rate for irrigation works was at variance with the principles on which such works were constructed and maintained in other parts of the empire, and opposed to the decision of Her Majesty's Secretary of State arrived at in 1869, in reference to the Punjab Canals Bill. It would appear that the Government was not satisfied that a compulsory rate on irrigable lands alone would suffice to cover the loss occasioned by the irrigation works in hand, and it was therefore proposed to cover the deficit by the Public Works Cess Bill. This measure involved the abandonment of the principle, that those who benefited by irrigation works should pay for their maintenance, and all owners of land in Bengal would be called upon to support the undertakings. It was thus clear that there was no equitable principle on which the compulsory rate was based. The Committee also commented on the details of the Bill.

The Committee are glad to state that the passing of this Bill has been postponed.

WORKING OF THE DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE ACT.

With reference to Act XIX. of 1876 entitled an Act for the better control of Public Dramatic Performances the Committee drew the attention of the Government of Bengal to the omission in that Act of any provision as to the agency to be employed for the examination of plays or dramas, the performance of which at a public place the local Government might think fit to prohibit. The Committee observed that the native public regarded with apprehension the new law lest it should have any repressive effect upon the growth of the legitimate drama, a branch of literature which was but struggling into existence. They therefore suggested that it would be satisfactory to the literary public if in enforcing the new Act the Government would entrust the examination of dramas intended to be brought under its operation to a committee of experts, who were well acquainted with Sanskrit and Bengali, with the peculiar modes of expression in vogue among the people, and with their usages and institutions.

Reply of Government.—The Government in reply said that the Lieutenant Governor did not consider that it was necessary to appoint a standing Committee for the purpose indicated, and that he hoped that, as a special law had now been passed, which clearly prohibited all dramas of a scandalous or defamatory character, no occasion would arise in future for having recourse to the repressive or penal sections of the Act. In any case no action would be taken by the Government, under section 3 of the Act, without the fullest enquiry and after such references to experts and others as might be considered necessary.

THE RENT QUESTION.

The Committee in their letter dated 15th December 1876, had submitted to the Government of Bengal remarks on the subject of the enhancement of rent. The Government in April last forwarded to this Association for information and opinion a copy of its letter to the Government of India on the subject.

As the Government proposed to legislate only regarding the recovery of arrears rent the Committee made certain suggestions in respect of it. They observed that the present law was defective because it tended to encourage the tenant to multiply pleas with a view to the harassment of the zemindar and because it did not provide a speedy procedure for the adjudication of suits or adequate facilities for the execution of decrees. They enumerated the pleas usually taken in contested rent suits, which were (1) the yearly rental claimed is excessive, (2) the instalments according to which the rent is payable are different from those stated by the plaintiff, (3) the tenant is not liable to pay any interest in default of payment or the interest claimed is excessive, (4) the money claimed had been tendered by the tenant and his tender not accepted by the landlord, (5) the money claimed had been either wholly or partly paid up (6) the plaintiff had no right to receive rent, (7) the defendant had cosharers in the tenure, who were as much liable for the rent as himself and who should therefore have been made parties to the suit, (8) the defendent was liable for part of the rent only and not the whole rent sued for. The Committee suggested that some clear and definite rules would obviate many of the pleas noted above. They remarked that the landlord should be required to mention the yearly rent in every

Digitized with financial assistance from the National Archives of India on 07 August, 2017

receipt for rent and to keep a counterpart of every such receipt. The number of instalments in which the rent was payable should be fixed by law. When according to local custom interest was allowed on default of an instalment the rate ought not to exceed 12 per cent. per annum, or where the interest was fixed by a special engagement or by a decree, the same should be recognised by the Court. Where a plea of tender might be taken the tenant should be required to deposit the rent in court within seven days from the date of alleged tender. The plea of denial of plaintiff's right to receive rent would be greatly met by the provisions of the Land Registration Act. The pleas that defendant had co-sharers, who were equally liable with him for the rent claimed, and that defendant was liable for part of the rent only and not the whole, might be prevented by extending the operation of section 26 of the Rent Act to all classes of tenures whatsoever. With regard to the procedure the first difficulty related to the service of summons. To obviate the plea of non-service of summons any two of the following processes might be adopted and in such a case the plea of non-service should not be accepted by the Court as good ground for re-opening or retrying a case which has been decided *ex parte*. The processes suggested were to affix the summons at the usual place of residence of the defendant in the village in which the land was situate if it could not be served upon him personally, or to affix it within five miles of the land at the *mal Catchery* of such land, or to put it up on the land for which the arrear was due, or some conspicuous place thereon, or to affix it at the village chowree or chowpal or some other conspicuous place of the village in which the land was situate. An attestation of service might be taken from the village chowkeedar, village mundul, or two respectable residents, or the rural sub-registrar. To ensure a speedy termination of the suit the summons should contain a notice requiring the defendants to appear, within one week from date of service, and stating that in case of default the claim would be decreed *exparte* and order for immediate execution issued. Within eight days from the date of defendant's appearance he should be examined by the Court and notice of the day of such examination should be given to the plaintiff. The defendant should be required to file on the day of his examination all documentary proofs in support of his pleas. If the case be contested the court should settle the issues in the presence of both parties on the day of examination and fix another day within a fortnight for final hearing and determination of the suit. The Committee then recommended a simplication of the law of distraint by declaring crops liable to distraint both when ripe for cutting and when gathered in; and suggested that crops standing on the land for which rent was due should be liable to distraint whether belonging to the defaulter or his undertenant or to a joint family whose separate shares had not been recorded in the zemindar's sherista, and in case crops belonging to an under-tenant be distrained or sold he should have the power to deposit the rent for which the distraint was made and thus obtain release of his crops, and afterwards recover the amount so paid or the value of the crops sold from his superior holder by deduction from the rent payable by him. With regard to the execution of decrees the Committee observed that retaining the several remedies provided in the existing law, they would recommend some modifications. They would suggest the sale of the occupancy tenure in satisfaction of a decree for arrears of rent whether such sale was recognised by local usage or not. It should of course be in the option of the zemindar to have recourse to this remedy or not, but where the zemindar preferred the remedy the tenure once so sold should be declared a transferable one. It would not however be equitable to confer upon the occupancy ryot an absolute right of transfer. The next modification recommended was a simplification of the law of eviction by providing that eviction should follow a decree for any instalment of rent due. The present law allowing eviction of a ryot from his tenure on a decree for rent for a whole year failed of its effect because it did not facilitate the recovery of current arrears.

INDIAN MANUFACTURES.

The Government of Bengal received a resolution of the Government of India in the Financial Department, requesting an expression of its opinion in regard to any rules and restrictions which it was expedient to lay down for substituting local purchases of certain kinds of stores for the agency of the Store Department of the Indian Office. The local Government appointed a Committee composed of officers of the Public Works Department, the Board of Revenue, and the Medical Department, and laid down three points for their consideration. First, what articles required by the various public departments could and should be obtained from local manufactures; second what description of articles to be obtained from Europe should be procured through the Secretary of State and what by local arrangement. The Government was of opinion that many articles which were not at present obtainable by local manufacture would become so if it were known that Government was likely to require such articles. The Lieutenant Governor called upon this Association for an expression of their opinion on the subject. The Committee were favoured with schedules of stores required for the Public Works, Railway and the Stationery Departments and the Secretariat Press; they placed themselves in communication with some of the local manufacturers and importers, and then informed the Stores Purchase Committee that many of the articles used by the Public Works and Railway Departments might be purchased in this country. As for Stationery they were not aware of any manufactory which turned out articles of finer and superior quality. Printing materials of local manufacture were not of a superior order. Some of the stores required by the Marine and Medical Departments were locally available, such as surgical instruments manufactured at Bhowanipore. They expressed an opinion that under due encouragement many of the articles might in time be locally supplied. For detailed information on the subject of the Public Works and Railway Stores they forwarded a communication received from Messrs. Sibkissen Daw & Co.

DISPOSAL OF THE PROFITS OF WARDS' ESTATE.

In August 1876 the Committee offered some suggestions to Government for the disposal of the profits of Wards' Estates. The Government of Bengal forwarded the Committee's representation to the Board of Revenue for an expression of their opinion as to whether any modification of their Circular of 22nd October 1874 was desirable. The Board in reply stated that the memorial of the Association was a very ably argued and temperately worded document and that on a review of the previous correspondence the member in charge had come to the conclusion that it was unnecessary to lay down any hard-and-fast rule, or even to enunciate any general principles applicable to all estates. The previous circular taken exception to by the Association went too far in its objection to the accumulation of funds, to be handed over to a ward on his attaining his majority, and pushes the idea of improvement into extremes. Nothing could be more desirable, the Board observed, than to leave a ward of Court on his attaining majority with a fund in hand which would relieve him of the necessity of oppressing his ryots and enable him to respect the system of the Courts' management, as also to meet calamities of season and exceptional demands without burdening himself with debt, or perhaps losing his estate. The management of each estate must depend upon its individual circumstances. If a landed property was already unwieldy, after devoting a reasonable sum to improvements, the surplus profits should be invested in Government securities. If an estate was not over-large, it would often be improved by buying in putni tenures by bringing out intercalated holdings of outsiders by securing neighbouring villages to a better boundary, and surplus profits might well be utilised in thus enlarging and rounding off the property. In very small estates it was better to invest surplus profits in securities, unless a really good investment in land offers itself. The Lieutenant Governor having expressed his approval of the views of the Board desired submission of the draft of an amended circular in modification of the Boards' circular of 2nd October 1874. The Board accordingly sent up the draft of a circular which they proposed to issue on the passing of the new Wards' Act. This circular embodied the views expressed by the Board in their letter to Government alluded to above, and it further added that sums remaining at credit, after payment of debts, up to a limit, in ordinary cases of 10 per centum of their amount might be spent by the manager upon improvement. In deciding upon any improvements to be undertaken, the manager must act under the special direction in each case of the Court of Wards.

THE FAMINE.

There was a consensus of opinion in this part of the country that the distress arising from scarcity, and famine, which afflicted the Southern Presidency and other provinces of the empire, required charitable assistance from the public, particularly after the appeal from the Madras Government. In that view a private meeting was held in August last at the house of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Sir Richard Garth, to consider what measures should be adopted towards raising subscriptions for famine relief. The meeting was not agreed as to the necessity of a public gathering for the purpose. The Chief Justice, however, received small subscriptions which were remitted to Madras and applied towards the maintenance of Nurseries for famine children.

In the meantime a minute of His Excellency the Viceroy, who had visited Madras, dispelled the doubt in the public mind as to the opinion of Government on the subject of public subscriptions for famine relief. His Excellency, while adhering to his resolution that the primary work of relief shall be done by Government, was of opinion that private subscriptions might be beneficially applied to the alleviation of sufferings, which could not be met by a system of Government relief, which must be based on certain definite rules.

Accordingly the Committee adressed a general circular to influential European and native gentlemen of this city in which they solicited their opinion on the following points:

1*stly*,—Whether an organized and united movement should be made to collect subscriptions.

2*ndly*.—What would be the best way of making such a movement, whether by a public meeting at the Town Hall, or by the appointment of a large and influential Committee, representing all sections of the community, whose duty it shall be to invite subscriptions by publishing an appeal to the Indian public.

The replies to this circular shewed a pretty unanimity of opinion as to the propriety of collecting subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers from the Famine in Southern India, but a divergence of opinion as to whether a public meeting should be held, or a large and influential Committee repesenting all sections of the community should be formed at a private meeting to be held for the purpose.

With a view to decide this question and to adopt such steps as might be deemed advisable for the furtherance of the movement, a meeting of the promoters was held at the rooms of the Association on the 15th September last, at which Sir Richard Garth presided. At this meeting it was resolved that a public meeting should be held to give a formal sanction to the movement. This was done, and the Committee, consisting of leading gentlemen both European and Native, was constituted.

On the motion of Baboo Sreenath Chunder, seconded by Baboo Bhuggobutty Churn Mullick, the report was received and adopted.

The names of the undermentioned gentlemen were submitted for election:

The Maharaja of Domraon—proposed by Dr. Rajendra Lalla Mitra, and seconded by Maharaja Narendra Krishna.

Nawab Asgar Ali Delwar Jung, C.S.I.,—proposed by Rajah Degumber Mitter, C.S.I., and seconded by Coomar Kanti Chunder Singh.

Baboo Nunda Lall Gossami, Serampore,—proposed by Baboo Joykissen Mookerjee, and seconded by Mr. Herjeebhoy Manickjee Rustomjee.

The Chairman then addressed the meeting to the following effect:

GENTLEMEN,—We are about to close a year the memory of which is not likely to pass away soon. It began with rejoicings throughout the country on the assumption of the Imperial title by her Gracious Majesty the Queen; as it advanced, a dire calamity, perhaps the direst on record, overtook the Southern Presidency. Great efforts were made by Government to cope with it, and at last, an appeal was made to England for assistance, and a response has been given to it not only from the United Kingdom, but from almost all parts of the British dominions, which cannot but evoke the liveliest feelings of gratitude among the millions of India, and draw closer the bonds of union between them and their benevolent rulers.

The famine as a matter of course has led to heavy expenditure from the public exchequer, and the Government must find means to meet it. Our able Finance Minister has this day made a statement of Famine expenditure and the measures to be taken to replenish the Treasury. That statement will, as it deserves to, receive our best consideration; but in the meantime permit me to say that if additional taxation be unavoidable, nothing could be more fair, just and equitable on principle than a tax upon incomes, the minimum raised high enough so as not to trench upon the bare means of subsistence of the poorer classes. I admit that there are difficulties in the practical working of the Income-tax in this country, but its greatest merit lies in the circumstance that it makes no invidious class distinction. But I am humbly of opinion that no additional taxation should be laid until the Government satisfies the people that it has done all it could do in effecting retrenchments. It is the duty of the subject to contribute to the necessities of the State; but it is also the duty of the State, as the representative of the tax-payers in the aggregate, to employ the money it takes, carefully, judiciously, and economically. Compared with the revenues of the Empire before the Mutiny, its resources have now nearly doubled, and still our Government finds it difficult to make the two ends meet. I am well aware that ours is a progressive Government and that progress means expenditure of money, but it cannot be denied that considerable retrenchments may be effected without checking progress. The Home Military Charges, the Native Troops, and the Public Works Department afford ample scope for economy, and I consider it our duty to press the necessity of economy in these branches upon the Government of India; but as in these matters the local Government is not quite unfettered, I think we will strengthen its hands if we appeal to Parliament on the subject. If England has proved so generous to India when in need of help, I cannot believe that she will refuse to be just to her. It was seriously proposed at several public meetings held in the United Kingdom in connection with the Madras Famine, that an Imperial grant should be given to India to enable her to meet the famine expenditure. We should certainly feel grateful for the benevolent feeling which prompted this proposal, but we do not want such a grant; what we want is justice to us—an adjustment of our financial relations with England on a fair and equitable basis; and if this is done, I dare say no addtional taxation will be necessary, or, even if it be necessary, the people will not in the least grudge to pay it under such circumstances.

☞ *See page* 22.

(Printed at the Hindoo Patriot Press.)